

## ***Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)***



### **Information for Parents and Carers**

#### ***Some answers to frequently asked questions!***

##### **How does the school know if my child needs extra help?**

At St. George's School class teachers continually monitor the progress of all children and discuss this with parents. If class teachers have any concerns about a child they will give extra input or support within the classroom and may also ask for advice from the Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo). The SENCo may carry out some assessments to find out more about the child's needs and with the permission of parents/carers, she may seek some extra advice from an outside agency or professional.

##### **How will the school support my child?**

Class teachers oversee the learning and progress of all children in their class. They plan for children to be taught as part of the whole class, in small groups, and also 1:1, working with the teacher or a teaching assistant. Some children may also follow special activities or programmes set by the SENCo or recommended by other professionals. What is provided for your child will be discussed with you, by either the class teacher and/or the SENCo.

### **How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?**

Teachers adapt and modify their teaching and the activities they set, to meet children's needs and to enable all children to move forward in their learning.

### **How will I know how my child is doing?**

In the Autumn term a Report Card is sent home showing how your child has settled into their new class. Formal Parents Evenings are held early in the Spring and Summer Term, for you to meet teachers and discuss your child's progress. An Annual Report is also sent home at the end of each school year.

### **What support will there be for my child's overall well-being?**

At St. George's Catholic School our aim is to support all children to 'grow in mind, body and spirit'. As part of that, our staff will do all they can to meet children's pastoral, medical or emotional needs. We also have a Parent and Family Support Advisor (PFSA) who is able to work with children and families.

### **What training do staff who support children with SEND have?**

Our school is recognized as an 'Inclusive Dyslexia Friendly School', and all staff are aware of how to support children with dyslexic needs. Many of our staff are also trained in using Somerset Total Communication (STC).

We employ skilled teaching assistants who have on-going training and input to equip them to support children with a variety of needs. Staff also undergo specific training when it is needed to provide for individual children.

### **How will my child be included in trips or activities outside the classroom?**

We work hard to be an inclusive school and work with parents to do all we can to make trips and activities accessible to all of our pupils.

### **How accessible is the school site?**

Our school is built on a slope and has a lot of steps, however all areas are accessible to wheelchair users. We have an accessible toilet in the office corridor and also in the swimming pool building, as well as an accessible changing room.

### **How will the school support my child on entry and when transferring to secondary school?**

Our Reception class teachers and SENCo contact and/or visit pre-schools to meet and gather information about the children who are due to start school. Parents are also asked at the New Parents Meetings to share any important information with our school staff, so we can plan efficiently to support the children. For children with recognized SEND, a School Entry Plan Meeting will be held and specific arrangements made to meet those children's needs.

Liaison with secondary schools is made by the Year 6 teacher and the SENCo. All children are invited to 2 taster days in the Summer Term and extra visits are also arranged for children who require them.

### **How are the school's SEND resources allocated and decisions made about how much support a child receives?**

All children, including those with SEND, are supported from the main school budget. However in Somerset, a very small number of children may be awarded additional funding, if their needs and the provision required for them is shown to meet a very strict set of criteria, in a SEND audit. How much help and support a child is given is based upon their needs, and is discussed by school staff with parents or carers.

## **Outside agencies and services that are used by our school.**

### **Education Services:**

- ◆ Learning Support Service
- ◆ Educational Psychology Service
- ◆ Behaviour Support Service
- ◆ Physical Impairment and Medical Support Team
- ◆ Visual and Hearing Support Team
- ◆ Language and Communication Team
- ◆ Special Needs IT Service
- ◆ Ethnic Minority Achievement Service.

### **Health Services:**

- ◆ Speech and Language Therapy
- ◆ Physiotherapy Service
- ◆ Occupational Therapy
- ◆ The School Nurse Service

*Who should I contact if I need help or advice about my child?*

If you have any concerns about your child, please speak firstly to your child's Class Teacher and if you would like further advice or help, please talk to our Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENCo), Mrs Marjorie Bullock.

Class teachers are often available for very brief exchanges of information at the beginning and end of the day, but for a longer discussion it would be best to make an appointment.

The SENCo works in school on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. She will always try to be available to meet, but it would be good to make an appointment in advance, if you can.

Mr Peter Hanratty, our Head Teacher is available should extra support or help be needed.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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