



St Gabriel's CE Primary SEN Information Report

Autumn 2020

1. What kinds of special educational needs do we make provision for in our school?

St Gabriel's is a single form entry Church of England primary school. We have seven classes (Reception to Year 6). The Christian ethos is at the heart of our school family and underpins all that we do. We are a high achieving school with high expectations for all our children, whatever their individual needs or abilities. We provide outstanding learning opportunities to nurture and develop the academic, social, physical, cultural, emotional and spiritual development of all our children. St Gabriel's is committed to an inclusive education for all pupils and aims to provide a learning environment to meet the needs of all our children.

The SEN provision we offer includes:

- Ramp access to main entrance/ junior playground
- Specific Learning Difficulty (SPLD) strategies throughout school
- Experienced Special Educational Needs staff
- Strong links with external services
- Dyslexia screening and assessment
- Dyslexia spelling programme (accessible for home use)

2. How does our school know if your child needs extra help?

At St Gabriel's we know when pupils need help if:

- concerns are raised by their class teacher, parent or the child
- limited progress is being made.
- there is a change in a pupil's behaviour

Children are assessed on entry into Reception and their progress is continually monitored throughout school. Additional tests used in our school include WELLCOM, Dyslexia Early Screening, Derbyshire Language screening, BPVS – British Picture Vocabulary Screening and PIVATS – Performance Indicators for Value Added Target Setting.

3. Who can you speak to at our school if you think your child may have special educational needs?

If you have concerns about your child, you can come and discuss them at any time. You can talk to any of the following people:

- Your child's class teacher
- Our special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) – Mrs Holmes
- Headteacher – Mrs Haigh

If a teacher is concerned about the progress of your child, they may invite you to an informal meeting. If necessary, your concerns will be referred to our SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator), Mrs L Holmes.

4. How do we know what progress your child is making and how will we keep you informed?

Monitoring progress is an integral part of teaching and learning at St Gabriel's. All children are assessed and their progress monitored from the earliest days in Reception until their final end of year assessments in Year 6, before they move on to high school. Progress data is shared with governors and the impact of intervention programmes is measured. This information informs school's financial and development planning.

Our open door policy provides parents with the opportunity for discussion face to face or on the telephone. We hold more formal parent evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms. We also send home mid and end of year progress reports. Each child with SEN has their own learning targets that they are working towards and these are shared with parents.

We believe that parents have an important part to play in supporting their children's learning and education. We provide practical guidance to ensure all parents can engage in activities to enhance and reinforce their child's progress.

5. How will our school support your child and how will the teaching be adapted to meet their needs?

We are committed to giving every child the opportunity to achieve. We do this by offering a wide ranging curriculum that is differentiated by the class teacher to support the specific needs of children within the class. Children with SEN are given an individual education plan which details individual learning targets, along with any other specific strategies or adaptations or learning aids which may be required.

We aim to be an inclusive school that takes reasonable action to ensure that all children can access all learning opportunities. Please refer to our SEN Policy and our Accessibility Plan which are published on our website.

6. How are decisions made about the type and how much support my child will receive?

St Gabriel's has a budget for SEN which is allocated each financial year. This money is used to provide additional support or resources to those children with special educational needs. These children will have been previously identified and assessed by the SENCO due to concerns raised regarding their progress, behaviour or general wellbeing.

Additional provision may be considered if reviews and assessments identify that your child is not making the progress we would expect.

The types of support available may include working within a small group with a teaching assistant, specialist input from professionals such as an educational psychologist, specialist software for use on laptops or equipment to develop motor skills.

If, through discussion with yourself, the SENCO and other staff in school, it is agreed that the school cannot meet your child's needs through existing resources, an application may

be made to the local authority for an Education, Health and Care Plan. This process can be found on the local offer website.

It should be noted, however, that an application is not a guarantee that additional support will be received. The application will be assessed by an independent panel, alongside other applications received from schools across the borough.

7. How will our school help you to support your child's learning?

We believe that parents have an important part to play in supporting their children's learning and education. We provide practical guidance to ensure all parents can engage in activities to enhance and reinforce their child's progress.

We actively encourage you, as a parent, to be involved with your child's learning and we will actively work with you in order that you do not feel unsure about the role you can play. Being interested and involved in your child's learning is essential and is all the more important if your child is struggling to overcome SEN issues.

The class teacher may suggest ways of how you can support your child alongside homework activities. If outside agencies or the Educational Psychologist has been involved, suggestions and programmes of study provided by them are normally provided that can be used at home. We also hold Curriculum Evenings to provide relevant information and practical support for parents.

8. What specialist services and expertise are available or accessible through our school?

We work closely with and have access to the following agencies to support your child's needs:

- Therapy services including occupational therapy and speech and language
- Advisory teachers within the inclusion support service
- Educational Psychology Team
- Social Services
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (ELCAS)
- Parent Partnership
- Education Welfare Team
- Barnardo's – Independent Supporters (supporting families undergoing the process of formulating an EHC Plan)

9. How are the staff in school supported to work with children with special educational needs and what training do they have?

We have an ongoing programme of staff training and development for both teaching and support staff, some of which is driven by individual and unique needs.

Our SENCO, Mrs Holmes holds regular meetings with all staff to monitor progress and advise on the implementation of individual plans.

All staff undertake routine training in relation to safeguarding. Some staff have specialist training in supporting children with autism, dyslexia, language communication and motor skills difficulties. Other staff have received training as Reading Recovery and maths intervention teachers. St Gabriel's is also a Model School for the teaching of Read Write Inc Phonics.

10. How will our school ensure that your child is included in activities outside the classroom, including physical activities and school trips?

Activities and school trips are available to all children in our school. A wide variety of trips and visits are made available for children across school, from very local neighbourhood walks to the Year 6 residential which includes 'adventurous activities'. A risk assessment would be carried out and procedures put in place to ensure that all children can participate. Where there are complex needs, raising questions over inclusion, school would work with parents to seek to provide appropriate provision.

We often seek parental volunteers to accompany our children on some of our trips and visits, so please contact school if you would like to be involved.

Whilst no child would be prevented from going on a trip through non-payment, the trip may not be possible without contributions from parents and carers.

School also hosts and provides a range of extra-curricular clubs for both infants and juniors, these include a whole range of sporting opportunities, and music activities, including instrument tuition. Some of these clubs are run voluntarily by members of staff, but some are run by external providers and do require a payment. If your child is passionate about a club, but can't attend for financial reasons please come and talk with us.

All children are supervised at break times by teachers or support staff. Each class has an appointed Welfare Assistant to provide supervision at lunchtime. Children who are in receipt of additional funding for their special needs, may receive 1:1 support at break and lunchtimes if this is seen as necessary.

Physical Education plays an important part in our school. We aim to include all children in PE lessons which promote general health and fitness alongside enjoyment and competitive spirit.

11. How will our school support your child's overall wellbeing?

The well-being of your child is central to the Christian ethos of our school, our open door policy and proactive approach to dealing with any concerns or issues that your child may face enables St Gabriel's to provide a happy, safe and caring environment.

The emotional wellbeing of your child is extremely important to us. We actively promote the pastoral care and nurture of all the children in our school family. We have a 'Keeping Safe' week each year to discuss all aspects of a child's personal safety – from

procedures at the end of the school day to online safety at home. The week's discussions also include health and fitness, attitudes to learning and aspirations, involvement in sports and extra-curricular activities – all issues affecting general wellbeing and self-esteem.

Elections are held in all classes from Y1 to Y6 to appoint candidates to the school council. These representatives discuss school issues with senior staff and report decisions, outcomes and ideas back to their own classes.

Medicines are kept in the School Office and refrigerated appropriately. Parents complete a form which details dosage and other relevant information and grants authorisation to the school to administer medicine to their child. See our Medicines Policy on our website.

If your child has a medical need, a care plan may be prepared in consultation with you and the appropriate medical practitioners. Many of our staff are trained in first aid, with key staff having paediatric first aid certificates.

12. How accessible is our school both indoors and outdoors for children with special educational needs?

Our school aims to allow all children to access every learning opportunity presented to them. Physical adaptations to school include ramped access to the main building. Full details are included in our Accessibility Plan (available on our website).

13. How will we prepare and support your child when joining our school and when transferring to a new school?

We have very good links with all the high schools we 'feed'. Each high school arranges introductory sessions for all new children and these are attended during release time from St Gabriel's. These include activity days where your child can meet their class teacher and other children who will be starting school at the same time.

We ensure that all relevant information about your child's needs are discussed at a transition meeting and that all the appropriate records are forwarded to the new school.

Where there may be additional concerns about transition, either to high school or from nursery, additional meetings will be held with key staff and additional visits for the child can be arranged.

To help with children transferring into our school from nursery we hold meetings for all parents to attend to find out about essential school information and approaches to learning. During these sessions, new starters will spend time in their new classrooms with their teacher and key worker. In addition, their admission into the Reception class in September is usually staggered over several days to ensure that all children settle in well.

14. Who can you contact for further information?

Should you require further details please contact:

- Mrs B Haigh, Headteacher
- Mrs L Holmes, SEN Coordinator

School contact details:

Wilworth Crescent
Blackburn
BB1 8QN
Tel: 01254 249462

For details of our school admission arrangements and other school policies, please see our website:

- www.stgabrielssch.co.uk

Additional information is available from:

- www.bwd-localoffer.org.uk (Blackburn with Darwen's Local Offer sets out a range of support and services available to you and your child)