

Special Education Needs at St Stephens Community Academy

St Stephens Community Academy is an inclusive school where every pupil is valued and respected. We are committed to the inclusion, progress and independence of all of our pupils, including those with SEN. We work to support our pupils to make progress in their learning, their emotional and social development, and their independence. We aim to create a learning environment which is of high quality but we also actively work to support the learning and needs of all members of our community.

Our SEND provision allows pupils with learning difficulties the opportunity to follow a curriculum specifically tailored to develop life skills and to give pupils self-confidence through their learning thus enabling them to maximize their potential and to work independently. We are committed to narrowing the attainment gap between SEND and non-SEND pupils. This may include short-term intervention learning programmes, and other learning interventions developed to personalise learning.

All children and young people are entitled to an education that enables them to make progress so that they:

- achieve their best
- become confident individuals living fulfilling lives
- make a successful transition into adulthood.

We aim to address children's needs and support their development in the most appropriate way possible and celebrate effort as much as achievement. Our school's SEND policy document is available on this website, detailing our philosophy in relation to SEND. Additional and/or different provision is currently being made in school for children with a range of needs, including:

- Cognition and Learning
- Sensory, Medical and Physical
- Communication and Interaction
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health

High quality teaching

St Stephens staff strive to provide high quality teaching to all of our pupils. Teachers prepare Schemes of Work and lessons which support the learning and progress of all pupils through a variety of methods, creative and innovative teaching techniques and the use of a wide variety of resources. Teaching staff adapt their teaching and resources to suit the needs of all learners, including those with SEN, in their classrooms (known as differentiation). Such in-class differentiation may involve many adaptations and strategies, dependent upon the needs of the pupils.

Staff have access to regular training opportunities to improve their knowledge and skills, including regular CPD sessions on a wide variety of educational concerns, including SEN issues. All staff are responsible for assessing, monitoring and tracking the progress of our pupils. Each pupil is regularly assessed in class and progress is tracked and reported to parents. Staff are responsible for setting each student achievable yet challenging targets and having high expectations of progress. The Head of School, teachers and the SENCO regularly check on the progress of pupils and raise a concern if pupils are not making expected progress. Some pupils who are not making expected progress attend intervention sessions.

Working with parents/carers

St Stephens Community Academy puts working with parents/carers and pupils at the centre of its work. Parent meetings are arranged each term for parents/carers and teachers to meet to set targets and review progress. Pupils are also regularly involved with reviewing their progress and encouraged to express their needs and concerns with relevant staff. Pupils with SEN are encouraged to express any concerns they may have to the SENCo, Learning Support Assistants, or any other member of staff with whom they feel comfortable to talk about their concerns.

Parents / Carers are equally at the centre of supporting their children. They are fully involved in decisions about support for their child, including decisions to investigate a potential diagnosis, referral to external agencies, planning and evaluating support. They are encouraged to contact any member of staff at school if they have any concerns about their child. The SENCo is always pleased to discuss any concerns involving SEN with parents / carers.

Equality (incl. accessibility)

'All schools have duties under the Equality Act 2010 towards individual disabled children and young people. They must make reasonable adjustments to prevent them being put at a substantial disadvantage. Schools also have wider duties to prevent discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations' (Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years 2014).

St Stephens Community Academy is an inclusive school and actively seeks to promote the inclusion of pupils with SEN and disabilities. We use our best endeavours to ensure that all pupils with SEN and disabilities are able to fully participate in the life of the school, both in their learning and in the wider provision and life of the school. Adaptations and provisions are made for SEN and disabled pupils to enable them to participate in all school trips and other out of class activities. For more information, refer to our Disability, Equality Policy and Accessibility Plan in the Policies section of our website. Pupils with SEN are actively encouraged, supported and given opportunities to become involved with extra-curricular activities.

Our Accessibility Policy and Plan can be found on the policy page of our school's website:

http://www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk/web/whole_school_policies/205048

The Code of Practice (2014) requires schools to publish the following documents:

- SEN Policy
- Annual SEN Information Report
- Local Offer

The following table provides a summary distinguishing the three forms of information, though the content may overlap.

	SEND Policy	SEN Information Report	Local Offer
Responsibility	Governing body	SENCo, SLT and governors	Governing body
Purpose	How will it be delivered?	What is actually / has been delivered?	What's on offer
Strategic Links	School values and vision, structures and procedures	School improvement plan and transition arrangements	Joint Commissioning, Provision Management systems and the school improvement plan
Where published	School website (and hard copy if requested)	School website (and hard copy if requested)	LA portal School website (and hard copy if requested)
Updated	Every 3 years	Annually	Annually

Our SEN Policy can be accessed from the link below in line with the new regulations:

<http://www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk/web/send>

SEN Information Report

From the 1st September 2014, under Section 65 (3) (a) of the Special Educational Needs (Information) Regulations, all schools are required to publish an SEN Information Report on their school websites. This report must contain SEN information as is set out in the Schedule, as well as utilising the Local Authority (LA) Local Offer. Consequently, the report should meet the needs of SEN pupils as determined by school policy and the provision that the school is able to determine. The SEN Information Report is therefore a written, annual account of what has been achieved or completed within an academic year. In effect it is an account of the implementation of the policy, not what is aspirational. Further information on the Schedule can be found by following this link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/251874/Consultation_on_draft_0_to_25_Special_Educational_Needs_SEN_-_SEN_information.pdf

Our SEN Information Report can be found at the link: <http://www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk/web/send>

What is the Local Offer?

The *Children and Families Bill* became enacted in 2014. From this date, Local Authorities and schools are required to publish and keep under review information about services they expect to be available for the children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) aged 0-25. This is the 'Local Offer'. The intention of the Local Offer is to improve choice and transparency for families. It will also be an important resource for parents in understanding the range of services and provision in the local area. Further information about Cornwall Council's Local Offer can be found here: <https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/localoffer.page>

Parents can find further information on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in this DfE guide attached below: SEND Guide for Parents and Carers: <https://primarysite-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/f50125fc12bb4667b1782616ea66c706/1c6b/SENDGuideforParentsandCarers.pdf>

Our school Local Offer can be found at the link: <http://www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk/web/send>