

# SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY POLICY



## VANTAGE ACADEMY TRUST

Document Name	Special Educational Needs & Disability Policy
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Date for next revision*	February 2022
Responsibility	Trustees
Approved by	Local advisory Board

\*subject to any relevant changes in legislation or other appropriate guidelines

Version	Date	Reviewed	Approved	Signature
1.0	14.03.18	J.MURPHY	LOCAL ADVISORY BOARD	
1.1	17.04.19	J.MURPHY	LOCAL ADVISORY BOARD	

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## INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 St Augustine's CE Primary School is part of the Vantage Multi Academy Trust (herein the 'Trust') is a smaller than average sized primary school in Salford. It is a fully inclusive school with a clear approach to meeting the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to ensure that all pupils, regardless of their individual needs, achieve their best and become confident individuals. Every teacher at St Augustine's is a teacher of every pupil including those with SEND. We aim to create a curriculum and environment in which all pupils can develop intellectually, physically, and emotionally at a pace which is suited to their needs.
- 1.2 The SEND policy has been written by the schools Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) and all stakeholders have been consulted about it. They were able to share their thoughts about the document and make changes so that the Local Advisory Board (LAB), senior leadership team, teachers and parents were all in agreement about the policy and their role within it. This document also reflects the changes made in the new 2014 SEND Code of Practice, 0-25 guidance.

## AIMS

- 2.1 Raising the aspirations of and expectations for all children with SEND
- 2.2 A clear focus on outcomes for children and young people and not just hours of provision/ support
- 2.3 Ensuring all children have full access to a broad and balanced curriculum that meets their individual needs
- 2.4 Developing a good level of independence for all children with SEND
- 2.5 Ensuring all children with SEND develop so they may reach their full academic potential.

## OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To identify and provide for pupils who have special educational needs and disabilities to ensure they meet their full potential
- 3.2 To work within the guidance provided in the SEND Code of Practice, 2014

- 3.3 To provide an experienced SENCO who will work within the SEND policy
- 3.4 To operate a “whole pupil, whole school” approach to the management and provision of support for special educational need and disabilities
- 3.5 To provide support and advice for all staff working with pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
- 3.6 To ensure all teachers are aware of the importance of identifying and providing support for, those pupils with SEND
- 3.7 To develop and maintain effective relationships with parents
- 3.8 To consult with the local authority and other outside agencies to ensure the needs of all pupils is met
- 3.9 To ensure that pupils with SEND are offered full access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum
- 3.10 To provide a differentiated curriculum appropriate to the individual’s needs and ability
- 3.11 To assist pupils in becoming effective independent learners
- 3.12 To monitor the effectiveness of SEND provision

## IDENTIFYING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

4.1 The SEND Code of Practice 2014 states that a child has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A child has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- Has a significantly greater difficulty learning than the majority of others of the same age

OR

- Has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age

4.2 Special Educational Needs and disabilities can be considered as falling under four broad categories of need:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, mental, and emotional Health
- Sensory and/or Physical

These four broad areas give an overview of the range of needs that should be planned for.

- 4.3 The purpose of identification in school is to work out what action the school needs to take to ensure positive outcomes for the pupil rather than to fit a pupil into one of these categories. Pupils often have needs which cut across all areas and their needs may change over time.
- 4.4 St Augustine's has a clear approach to identifying the needs of pupils with SEND, with the emphasis being on early identification. School assesses each child's current skills and levels on entry to the school, building a picture from information provided by parents, previous settings and outside agencies (where applicable). This builds up a picture of the whole pupil not just their special educational needs and/or disability.
- 4.5 Class teachers, supported by the senior leadership team, make regular assessments of progress of all pupils via pupil progress meetings. If a pupil is making less than expected progress the first response is high quality teaching targeted at the area of need. Where progress continues to be less than expected, the class teacher, working with the SENCO, considers all the information gathered from within the school about the pupil's progress, alongside national data, and expectations of progress to identify if a child has SEND.
- 4.6 For higher levels of need, the SENCO will draw on more specialised assessments from external agencies and professionals using the relevant referral processes. (See appendix A)
- 4.7 There are a number of educational issues that are not labelled as SEND but can impact on progress and attainment. These include:
- Disability (the Code of Practice outlines the "reasonable adjustment" duty for all settings and schools provided under current Disability Equality Legislation – these alone do not constitute SEND)
  - Attendance and Punctuality
  - Health and Welfare
  - English as an additional Language (EAL)
  - Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant
  - Being a Looked After Child
  - Being a child of Serviceman/woman

## A GRADUATED APPROACH TO SEN SUPPORT

5.1 In the Trust we use the graduated approach to SEND support which follows the; assess, plan, do and review cycle to identify and manage pupils with SEND.

### 5.1.1 Assess

A clear understanding of a child's needs is critical to planning effective strategies, creating appropriate provision, and influencing adjustments to teaching that will lead to good progress and improved outcomes. Following on from summative assessments teachers identify which pupils are not making enough progress. Further assessment is then carried out to establish a clear understanding of the child's need. This may include teacher assessments and observations of the pupil in class, behaviour, attendance, the pupil's own voice, the views of the parents and the child's development in comparison with his/her peers.

### 5.1.2 Plan

The first step in responding to a pupil's identified need is to ensure that high-quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is in place. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching. Following assessments, the teacher needs to identify what changes or adaptations to quality first teaching, this new understanding means they need to make. Once the specific areas of need and gaps in learning and development have been identified, additional or different intervention targeted at these key areas can be planned and delivered.

### 5.1.3 Do

The class teacher is at the centre of the day-to-day responsibility for working with all pupils, even where interventions and targeted provision involves group work or one to one teaching away from the class. Teachers work closely with teaching assistants and specialist staff involved to plan and assess the impact of targeted interventions.

### 5.1.4 Review

At the end of any interventions or targeted provisions the outcomes are fully evaluated. This may be through comparing baseline data with data collected at the initial assessment point, reviewing pupils' progress in relation to the targets set and/or reviewing other factors that may have affected progress. Evaluations include the overall effectiveness of the intervention, identify where more evidence is located and detail what the next steps need to be.

5.2 Where pupils have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) the impact of any interventions and progress towards targets in the plan are formally reviewed through a person-centred review on an annual basis by everyone involved with the child.

5.3 The school believe that parents should be kept fully informed about their child's progress. Parents are invited to attend Parent Conference evenings to discuss the progress made and share individual targets to further improve learning. Parents may request additional information at any time regarding the progress of their child. The SENCO has regular contact with parents to share information from specialist outside agencies and to collect information to help plan for their child's individual needs.

5.4 Children with a high level of need have a Single-Page Profile

#### CRITERIA FOR EXITING THE SEND REGISTER/RECORD

6.1 The SEND register is regularly updated, and pupils are either added to it or removed from it. If a pupil has made accelerated progress and/ or is achieving age related expectations in all areas of the curriculum and wider curriculum they will be moved to 'monitoring level'. This means that they have not been removed completely but their progress needs monitoring closely to ensure this level is maintained. If this progress does continue over the following two terms they will be removed completely.

#### SUPPORTING PUPILS AND FAMILIES

7.1 As part of the 2014 SEND Code of Practice all local authorities have to publish a local offer which outlines the provision which is available for children and young people in the local area. Salford's Local Offer can be found using the following link: [www.salford.gov.uk/localoffer.htm](http://www.salford.gov.uk/localoffer.htm)

7.2 St Augustine's has also produced a SEND information report which outlines the provision available at the school. This can be found on the school's website using the following link:  
[https://staugustines.salford.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SEND\\_Information-Report-STA-2020-21.pdf](https://staugustines.salford.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SEND_Information-Report-STA-2020-21.pdf)

7.3. The school has developed links with a number of agencies to support its work with SEND where appropriate to the needs of the child. Parents are consulted before external agencies are involved. SEND support services may be asked to offer advice on the best way to provide for a pupil's SEND, to carry out assessments on a pupil, to work directly with a pupil or teaching staff or to provide staff training.

#### 7.4 Agencies that may have involvement with school include:

- Learning Support Service (LSS)
- Primary Inclusion Team (PIT)
- Educational Psychology Service (EP)
- Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT)
- Early Help Team
- Children's Services
- Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy
- Child Adolescence Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- School Nursing Team
- Salford Information and Advisory Service (previously 'Parent Partnership')
- Autism, Communication and Education Service (ACE Team)
- Family Support Services

7.5 Admission arrangements for pupils with SEND follow the same criteria as any other pupil. A copy of the Admission Policy can be obtained from the school office.

7.6 If a pupil has a special educational need and/or disability which makes it difficult for them to fully access exams or other assessments, every opportunity is made for them to do so. This may involve using an additional adult to read questions, to scribe for them or as prompter to keep the pupil focussed. Some pupils may benefit from working in a smaller room away from distractions. Modified scripts are also used where required such as braille and larger print. In some cases, additional time is given to complete the test, or the test is broken up into smaller more manageable chunks. Formal assessments applications are placed by the assessment co-ordinator.

7.7 Transition times can be difficult for any pupil, so we try to ensure that they are as smooth as possible. To aid transition, Early Years staff visit parents and new pupils in their own home. Pupils also get the opportunity to 'stay and play' with their parents during the summer term prior to a phased transition in September. To aid transition from year to year, pupils have the opportunity to meet their new teacher on 'Move up morning'. For pupils who find transition particularly challenging, additional transition booklets can be completed. Close liaison is made with schools if a pupil moves school within the academic year to ensure that all relevant information is fully shared. In year 6 the class teachers and SENCO liaise closely with secondary schools. Additional transition is set up for vulnerable pupils or pupils with high levels of need.

## SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

8.1 The Trust recognises that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Some pupils with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010. Some pupils may also have special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) and may have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision and the SEND Code of Practice (2014) is followed.

8.2 Individual healthcare plans are completed to specify the type and level of support required to meet the pupil's medical needs. Healthcare plans are used by school to:

- Inform the appropriate staff about the individual needs of a pupil with a medical condition in their care
- Detail when and the how the pupil needs to take or administer their medication
- Identify common or important individual triggers at school that bring on symptoms and can cause emergencies. This information is used to help reduce the impact of triggers
- Ensure that medication is stored correctly and within its expiry date
- Ensure our local emergency care services have a timely and accurate summary of a pupils' current medical management and healthcare in the event of an emergency
- Where pupils also have SEND, their provision is planned and delivered in a co-ordinated way with a healthcare plan.

8.3 For further information and guidance see the school's Supporting Children with Medical Needs policy.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF SEND

9.1 St Augustine's regularly and carefully monitors and evaluates the quality of provision that we offer to all pupils. This is achieved through regular audits of pupil's books and teacher's planning. All teaching staff have regular lesson observations and targets set for improvement. Specialist outside agencies provide additional feedback. This monitoring and evaluation are fed back to the Governing Body at regular intervals and via a SEND report once a year. These evaluations then form the basis of the next SEND action plan. As a school we

are constantly monitoring and evaluating in order to promote an active process of continual review and thus improve the provision that we provide for all pupils.

## TRAINING AND RESOURCES

10.1 The schools receive a delegated budget each year based on the SEND Audit information collected by the local authority to support children with SEND. Additional funding is provided for pupils with additional needs to ensure they are achieving their full potential. Personnel, resources, equipment, and training is allocated through careful consideration of the SEND action plan, whole school priorities for improvement in the School Improvement Plan and monitoring outcomes. Part of this budget is invested to purchase support from the Educational Psychology service. Top up funding can be requested from the local authority for children with severe and/ or complex special education needs via an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

10.2 The training needs of all staff are identified as part of the school's robust professional development systems. In order to maintain and develop the quality of teaching and provision to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils, all staff are encouraged to undertake training and development.

10.3 All teachers and support staff undertake induction on taking up a post and this includes a meeting with the SENCO to explain the systems and structures in place around the school's SEND provision and practice and to discuss the needs of individual pupils.

10.4 The school SENCO regularly attends training and local cluster meetings in order to keep up to date with local and national updates in SEND. Additional training is provided by specialist outside agencies who are involved with the school.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

11.1 Provision for pupils with SEND is a matter for the Trust as a whole.

The LAB representative with responsibility for SEN is invited into school to meet with the SENCO every term. The SENCO regularly feeds back to the LAB. In the summer term the SENCO produces a SEND report which is shared at the LAB meeting.

11.2 'All teachers are teachers of pupils with special educational needs and/ or disabilities.' Class teachers have the responsibility to identify the strengths and needs for the pupils in their class and plan intervention to ensure that all outcomes are achieved. The class teacher is responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class, including where pupils access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff.

11.3 Additional SEND support is provided by teaching assistants and teachers to ensure the child's individual targets are met. This may involve small group work, working one to one with the pupil or preparing additional resources. Any support provided by teaching assistants is planned closely with the class teacher.

11.4 The Designated Teacher with specific Safeguarding responsibility is J. Murphy. D.Taylor and M. Marsland are also Designated Safeguarding Leads

11.5 The member of staff responsible for managing PPG is J. Murphy

11.6 The designated members of staff responsible for managing LAC is J. Murphy

11.7 The member of staff responsible for managing the school's responsibility for meeting the medical needs of pupils is the SENDCo

11.8 The school's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENCO) is H. Pickering. The key responsibilities for the SENCO include:

- Overseeing the day-to-day operation of the SEND policy
- Co-ordinating provision for children with SEND
- Liaising with and advising fellow teachers and the other members of the SEN team
- Managing, supporting, and advising learning support assistants
- Overseeing the records of all children with SEND
- Liaising with parents of children with SEND
- Contributing to the in-service training of all staff
- Liaising with external outside agencies including the LA's support and educational psychology services, health and social services and voluntary bodies
- Monitoring and evaluating the SEND provision in school
- Using findings from above to produce a SEND action plan to improve outcomes for children with SEND
- Produce an annual SEND report for the LAB and feedback to LAB representatives termly

## STORING AND MANAGING INFORMATION

12.1 All information regarding pupils SEND is confidential and is shared with relevant staff on a need-to-know basis. Any paperwork about children with SEND is securely stored. Archived information is kept until the child is 25 years old. Any

paperwork that is no longer needed and has not been passed to the receiving next school is shredded or placed in a confidential waste bag.

12.2 SEND information that is stored on the school Teams is also confidential and can only be accessed by key members of staff including the SENCO. Some of this information is also password protected.

## ACCESSIBILITY

13.1 All children have access to and participate in an inclusive and enriching curriculum with lots of opportunities to develop their social, emotional, and cultural development alongside their academic development. Every effort is made to ensure that all children can fully access the school's curriculum by making the necessary adjustments. Close liaison is set up with specialist outside agencies to ensure that all staff are fully aware of the needs of children with physical or sensory impairments and how to reduce any barriers to learning.

13.2 To enrich the curriculum the school has many extra-curricular clubs on offer and children attend various trips throughout the year. Every effort is made to ensure that all children fully participate in all aspects of learning, therefore reasonable adjustments and provisions are put in place.

13.3 St Augustine's has ensured that anyone with a disability has full access to the physical environment by providing the following:

- Wide door access
- Disabled toilet
- Handrail
- Ramps
- Disabled car parking space

13.4 The school has an accessibility plan which has been written in compliance with [paragraph 3 of schedule 10 to the Equality Act 2010](#).

(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/schedule/10>) A copy of which is located on the school website by following the link:

<http://staugustines.salford.sch.uk/about-us/policies/>

## DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS

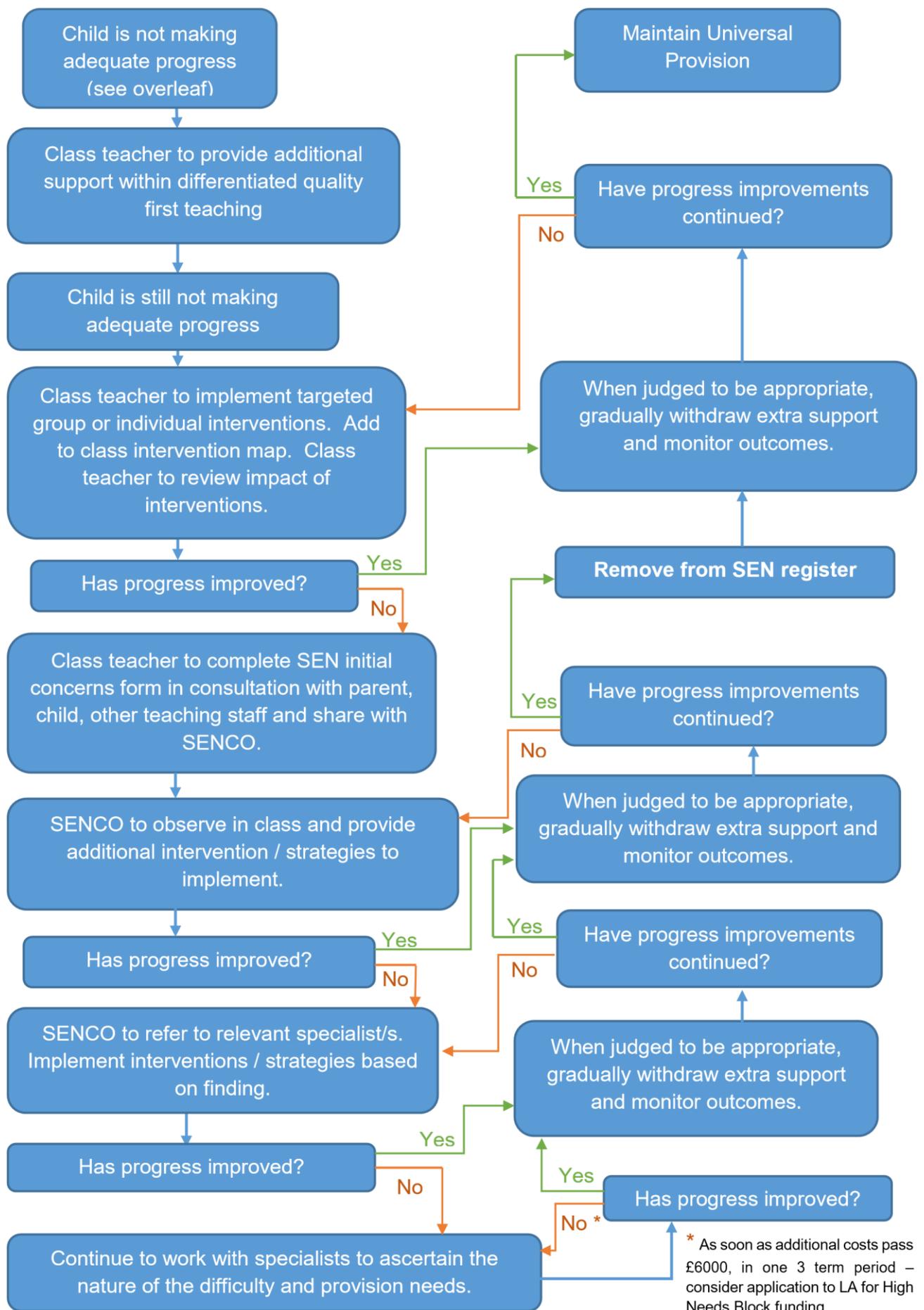
14.1 St Augustine's has a complaints procedure to ensure that complaints are responded to quickly and effectively as possible. As a school we value all comments about our school and endeavour to address any concerns at the earliest stage possible. A full copy of the School's Complaints Procedure can

be obtained from the school. The vast majority of complaints can be resolved informally. There are many occasions when the class teacher, office staff, SENCO and senior teachers can resolve any complaints straight away. If parents remain dissatisfied with the outcome, the complaint is then referred to the School Principal or the Chair of the LAB, as outlined in the Complaints Procedure.

## BULLYING

- 15.1 St Augustine's has a duty of care towards its pupils acting in loco parentis. The overall aim of the anti-bullying policy is to promote a climate in school where bullying and harassment cannot flourish and where all members of the school community especially the young are treated with respect. This is entirely consistent with the school's vision and ethos. The policy aims to be preventative and proactive to enable children to learn and be taught to their full potential, regardless of gender, race, religion, age, ability, appearance, or culture.
- 15.2 The school employs several strategies to enable bullying to be uncovered including regular consultation with pupils. These include, school wide promotion of our code of conduct, parent and pupil surveys, school council meetings, circle time activities and PHSE sessions.
- 15.3 Teachers investigate suspected bullying cases through individual or group interviews.
- 15.4 Involving parents early is essential and accurate records of incidents and the school's response to help with proceedings are logged. The incident is then followed up to ensure that it has stopped. Bullying is subject to school sanction just as any undesirable behaviour.
- 15.5 For more information see the school's Anti-bullying policy.

## APPENDIX A – SEND FLOW CHART



Below references from page 95 of Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0-25 years (July 2015) - Reference: DFE-00205-2013

*“6.17 Class and subject teachers, supported by the senior leadership team, should make regular assessments of progress for all pupils. These should seek to identify pupils making less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances. This can be characterised by progress which:*

- is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline*
- fails to match or better the child’s previous rate of progress*
- fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers*
- widens the attainment gap*

*6.18 It can include progress in areas other than attainment – for instance where a pupil needs to make additional progress with wider development or social needs in order to make a successful transition to adult life. “*