



# Special Educational Needs Information Report 2026-27

## Mark Cross Church of England Primary School



### 1. About this report

The Children and Families Act 2014 says that all maintained schools must publish a Special Educational Needs (SEN) Information Report every year. This report explains how our school meets the needs of children with SEND. It will be shown on our school website and in the 'local offer' on [East Sussex Local Offer](#)

We will review this report every year and will involve pupils and parents through questionnaires, pupil voice and meetings. If you want to give us your views about the report, please contact the school office – 01892 852866.

Chair of Governors Mr Robert French

### 2. Who do I contact?

If your child is already at school your child's class teacher is the first point of contact

The Special Educational Needs Coordinator SENDCo is responsible for managing and co-ordinating the support for children with special educational needs, including those who have Education Health and Care (EHC) plans. The SENDCo also provides professional guidance to school staff and works closely with parents and other external services/agencies.

Key contacts in school

- SENDCo and Inclusion Lead – Mrs Jill Thomson
- Head of School – Mrs Louisa Hillman
- Executive Headteacher – Mrs J Challis (also a SENDCo)
- School website - [The Weald Federation](#)

Similarly, if you have a question, want to look around or perhaps you feel that your child's needs are hard to meet and you want to discuss the matter in more depth, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01892 852866 or [markcrossoffice@theweald federation.org](mailto:markcrossoffice@theweald federation.org)

Mark Cross school's offer for children with special educational needs and disabilities has been approved for publication by the East Sussex Local Education Authority.

### 3. Which children does the school provide for?

We are a Church of England Primary School who admits pupils from age 4 to 11. We are a voluntary aided school.

We are an inclusive school. This means we provide for children with all types of special educational needs, including disabilities. If you want a place for a child who has a statement or Education Health and Care plan, contact your Assessment and Planning Officer at East Sussex County Council. If you want a place for any other child with special educational needs, you should apply as normal and your application will be considered in the same way as applications from children without special educational needs.

- Mark Cross Primary School – <https://thewealdfederation.org/>
- School Admissions [Apply for a school place | East Sussex County Council](#)

Opening hours for enquiries are Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm.

For general enquiries you can contact:

Admissions and Transport team

County Hall

St Anne's Crescent

Lewes BN7 1UE

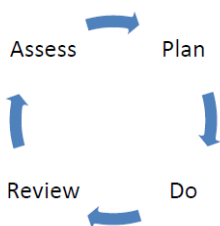
Email: [Admissions and Transport team](#)

Phone: 0300 330 9472

#### 4. Summary of how the school meets the needs of children with SEN and disabilities

- The needs of your child will be met within the class supported by quality first teaching including adapted planning and homework which takes account of the needs of each child.
- The progress of all children is reviewed termly with the class teacher and the Inclusion Team.
- The class teacher will develop a plan for your child in liaison with the Inclusion Team, setting appropriate targets. This Additional Needs Plan will be reviewed and updated formally 3 x per year to ensure that provision remains appropriate.
- Where necessary, an individual programme of support will be implemented and monitored. This may include support from an outside service. We will make sure you know about any extra support that your child is receiving in school.
- Where necessary, the school may seek support from outside agencies; this will be discussed with you and a referral made with your permission.
- The Governing body is responsible for ensuring that funding is appropriately allocated and also for monitoring teaching and accessibility. There is a designated SEND governor who liaises regularly with the SENDCo and the Inclusion Team.
- We will track your child's progress carefully and adjust support as needed.

This process of rigorous assessment, planning to support any identified difficulties, implementing this support and reviewing this provision regularly is identified in the 2014 SEND code of practice as the 'assess, plan, do, review' cycle. Staff, parents, children and outside agencies, where relevant, are involved and consulted during this process.



If the child is looked after by the local authority they will have a Care Plan including a Personal Education Plan (PEP) and a Health plan. We will co-ordinate these plans with the SEN support plan and will involve parents and carers as well as foster carers or social workers in discussions.

#### 5. How does the school identify children's special educational needs

We aim to identify a child's special educational needs (SEND) as early as possible, so that the child achieves the best possible outcomes. A pupil has SEND where their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision. That is provision which is different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age. Children may have one or more broad areas of special educational need:

- **Communication and interaction** – including speech and language difficulties and autism
- **Cognition and learning** – including developmental delay and specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.
- **Social, emotional and mental health difficulties** – including difficulties with behaviour, attention deficit hyperactive disorder, an attachment disorder or anxiety.
- **Sensory and/or physical needs**- including visual and hearing impairment, dyspraxia, cerebral palsy and other physical disabilities or medical conditions which affect a child's learning.

Class teachers, supported by the leadership team, make regular, termly, assessments of the children's progress in their classes. These identify children making less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances. It can include progress in areas other than attainment, for instance where a child needs to make additional progress with social or physical needs. Progress in attainment is shared with parents at consultation meetings. In addition, specific needs or concerns will be discussed with parents/carers at the earliest opportunity and may involve the class teacher and the Inclusion Team.

Children will be involved in this process of identifying areas of difficulty and ways forward in age-appropriate ways. If a child has behavioural difficulties, we will use the expectations and guidance of the school behaviour policy whilst also investigating any social and emotional issues as well as possible SEND. If a child with English as an additional language is making less than expected progress, we may involve the EALS (English as an additional language service) to help identify any underlying needs. We assess each pupil's skills and level of attainment when they start at the school and we continually assess each child's progress in a variety of ways throughout their school careers. If a child is making less than the progress we would expect for their age or individual circumstances, we will consider whether they have special educational needs and the support that may be needed.

The school has adopted a system of assessment (INSIGHT tracking) which is used, alongside observations, work scrutinies and consultation with parents and the child, to identify special educational need and to support with differentiated planning. The Inclusion Team will also consult outside agencies for advice if necessary.

#### 6. How does the school teach and support children with SEND?

Teachers provide quality lessons to meet the needs of all children in their class using differentiation to support all their teaching. Additional support for individual children or groups of children may be planned and reviewed by the class teacher and/or teaching assistant.

Where necessary, the class teacher will talk to the Inclusion Team and a more personalised programme of support may be introduced which may include support from an outside agency. Parents and children will be informed and consulted during this process.

We will track your child's progress carefully, adjusting support as needed and meeting with parents regularly to share information. Good teaching is ensured through the school's performance management process, regular observations and through an ongoing programme of training for all staff.

### 7. How will the curriculum and learning environment be matched to the child's needs?

Lessons are pitched appropriately so that all children can learn and progress. Teachers make sure that teaching is appropriate to the needs of all the children taking account of the needs of the individual and differentiating tasks and materials appropriately.

Pupil Progress Meetings are held termly between the Head of School, Inclusion Team and Class Teacher to discuss suitable teaching programmes as well as targeted interventions for each child.

Targets are set to support children's individual needs and are regularly updated.

Children work in a variety of groupings for example, small supported groups, 1:1, mixed ability and similar ability groups.

The senior leadership team regularly carries out environmental and monitoring audits of the school, and part of this includes looking at resources, displays and how 'learning friendly' the classrooms are.

### 8. How are parents and carers involved in reviewing children's progress and planning support?

- As a school we are committed to working with parents and carers in partnership, this is especially important for children with SEND.
- There is regular communication between home and school, both through parent consultation meetings and less formal meetings which may be arranged by parents or teachers to share successes or concerns.
- Parents are involved in the decision to place their child on the SEND register, which will usually take place after a process of support, monitoring and assessment. On occasion, a specific event may cause significant social, emotional issues for a child which may mean their needs justify assignment to the register, although this may be short term.
- Open door policy with teacher/Inclusion Team/Head of School/Executive Headteacher.
- Home/school contact books where appropriate.
- Sharing of support plans with parents and how you can support at home.

- Annual school report from class teacher.
- Reports from outside agencies shared/discussed as appropriate.
- SEND Review meetings with parents – at least 3 times per year with parents.
- Opportunities for parent training workshops/meetings to develop understanding of the curriculum.

We are keen to involve parents in school life. Below are some of the opportunities available:

- We encourage parents to attend parent consultation meetings
- Workshops, helping with school visits and sharing any skills as part of themed events.
- Individual Learning Plans are discussed with parents, including the role they can play.
- Opportunities to be a parent governor.
- Opportunities to join the FMCS (Friends of Mark Cross Primary School), supporting the school by raising funds and organising events.

### 9. How are children involved in reviewing their progress and planning support?

Children are encouraged and supported to make suggestions about their learning, this begins in the classroom where next steps are discussed daily, and during the interventions where a dialogue takes place between the adult and child. At the end of the interventions children are encouraged to say what they have found helpful and what they think their next steps should be. We are committed to ensuring that all children are active participants in their learning. Opportunities for talking to children about their learning include:

|                                                | Who's involved?                                                                  | How often?                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Self assessment                                | Pupil, class teacher                                                             | Daily                                                                                                                                  |
| Class Circle times                             | Pupil, class teacher                                                             | As required                                                                                                                            |
| Worry Box/Suggestions box                      | Pupil, class teacher                                                             | As required                                                                                                                            |
| School Council                                 | Class, class teacher                                                             | Termly                                                                                                                                 |
| Pupil Voice                                    | Pupil, Inclusion Team, class teacher                                             | This can be in the form of a written pupil voice or through regular ad hoc conversations with pupils on a 1:1 or in a group situation. |
| SEND support review meetings                   | Pupil, parents, class teacher supported by Inclusion Team                        | At least three times a year                                                                                                            |
| Annual reviews (statements and EHC plans only) | Pupil, parents, Inclusion Team, class teacher support services, local authority. | Once a year                                                                                                                            |

#### **10. How does the school prepare and support children to transfer to a new school/ college or the next stage of education and life?**

We recognise that moving can be difficult for any child, but can be especially difficult for children with SEND and we take steps to ensure that any transition is as smooth as possible.

Effective transition arrangements between early years settings and school:

- Home visits for children joining the Reception class.
- We will invite you to visit the school with your child to have a look around and speak to staff.
- All records and information about your child are discussed and passed on between schools.
- If other professionals are involved, we will contact them or meet with them to discuss your child's needs and any previous successful teaching methods and ensure that support is put in place before your child starts.
- Induction events will take place during the summer terms for all children who are joining the Foundation Stage in September.
- Effective transition between classes in school:
- Information, including learning targets, will be passed on to the new class teacher in advance.
- For children with more complex needs, there will be a planning meeting and/or specific preparation or training for the new teacher and/or support staff.
- Transition work in school, which may include creating a book of information about the new class and routines.
- Buddies are assigned from within the school to guide and support the new reception children when they join.

Effective transition arrangements with secondary schools:

- All records and information about your child are discussed and passed on between schools.
- Additional transition visits for vulnerable children as appropriate.
- Staff from the new school may visit children in our school.
- Transition group work in school. Children who might find moving on difficult will attend a small group in school to support their understanding of the changes ahead. This may include creating a book of information about their new school.
- Continuation of involvement of outside services as appropriate.

#### **11. What training do school staff have?**

The school has a School Improvement Plan which includes identified training needs for all staff to improve the teaching and learning of children, including those with special needs.

There is ongoing training for staff to increase or refresh knowledge and strategies to ensure consistency of the school's approach to supporting pupils with SEND. This is done both internally and through external services. The types of training include approaches to teaching reading, understanding and working with children on the autistic spectrum, dyslexia and approaches to using appropriate questioning with pupils.

In addition, teachers and teaching assistants attend individual training for a child's specific needs, such as:

- Occupational therapy to manage exercise and specific speech and language programmes.
- Skills audits are carried out and a rolling programme delivered by the Inclusion Team or outside agencies
- Mental health and wellbeing training
- Empowerment & Therapeutic approaches.
- Shadowing/peer observation.
- Medical training to support pupils with medical care plans e.g. epilepsy, diabetes, epi-pen training.

Our SENDCo (Inclusion Lead) Mrs Thomson was awarded the National Professional Qualification (NPQ) in Special Educational Needs Co-ordination in 2026. Our Executive Head teacher was awarded the SENCo National Award in 2014.

#### 12. How does the school measure how well it teaches and supports children with SEND?

We regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils to make sure no-one underachieves. We look at whether our teaching and programmes of support have made a difference. We use information systems to monitor the progress and development of all pupils. This helps us to develop the use of interventions that are effective and to remove those that are less so.

We complete an annual self-evaluation of our SEND provision and use this to develop an annual action plan to further improve our SEND provision.

We send home a parent questionnaire every year to inform our provision and school improvement plan. This is shared with all staff to support their teaching provision.

We also invite parents to provide feedback at meetings and through the Ofsted parent view website. <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Being a small school we do not publicise numbers and the exact movement of children on and off the register for confidentiality reasons. The SENDCo reports to the governors at every meeting on progress, new initiatives and the impact of the interventions in place.

The school budget received from the Local Authority includes money for supporting pupils with SEND. The Executive Head teacher/Head of School then decides on the spending for SEND in consultation with school

governors and based on the needs of pupils in the school. The school may receive an additional amount of 'top-up' funding for pupils with higher level needs and/or have an Education Health Care Plan.

The school will use its SEND funding in the most appropriate way to support your child. This support may include individual or small group teaching assistant support. All interventions are recorded with a start and end point so we can see how successful the interventions have been and the progress that has been made. The Inclusion Team discusses each child on a termly basis within pupil progress meetings with the SLT.

This is then used to inform the training needs of staff in school to support children on the SEND register. Over the last year, for example, training has taken place in Autism, Precision Teaching (frequent and short interventions in specific areas), the use of technology in the classroom, Nurture, Sensory Circuits and Jump Ahead (gross and fine motor skills). SEND funding may also be used to purchase particular resources and interventions or support from other specialist support services.

#### 13. How accessible is the school and how does the school arrange the equipment or facilities children need?

- The school site has stairs to one classroom as well as stairs to the main hall. There is external access to the main hall but there is no lift to the upstairs classroom.
- We have a disabled toilet.
- Visual timetables are used in all classrooms.
- We currently communicate with parents in direct conversation, phone, letter, Teams and e-mail. We ask parents how they prefer us to communicate with them.
- We are sensitive to the needs of parents whose first language is not English or who may have other communication needs.

<https://theweald federation.org/frant/reports-policies/policies/>

#### 14. How are children included in activities with other children, including school trips?

"Our Equality Scheme is inclusive of our whole school community, including children, staff, parents and visitors".

- We make sure that activities outside the classroom and school trips are available to all.
- Risk assessments are carried out to ensure that procedures are in place so that all children can participate.
- Parents/Carers are invited to accompany their child on a school trip if this is deemed helpful to ensure access.
- After school clubs are available to all pupils, vulnerable pupils are given priority, and adjustments will be made to support their participation.
- If there is something that might make it hard for your child to be included in an activity, we will discuss this with you and see how we can work together to make the activity possible.
- Health and Safety audits will be conducted as and when appropriate.

We work with parents and pupils to listen to their views, feelings and wishes to ensure pupils with SEND engage fully in the life of the school and in any wider community activity.

#### **15. What support is there for children's overall well-being and their emotional, mental and social development?**

- We are an inclusive school. We welcome and celebrate diversity. All staff believe that having high self-esteem is crucial to a child's emotional well-being and academic progress. We have a caring and understanding team that looks after all our children.
- The support we can provide in school includes nurture groups, social skills and friendship groups, pupil voice and behaviour programmes which include rewards and sanctions.
- Medicine can be administered in school with signed parental permission. There are nominated First Aiders in school, and members of staff have paediatric First Aid qualifications. If your child has significant medical needs, you will need to speak to the SENDCo to discuss how we can best support you and your child. This might include drawing up an Individual Health Care Plan.
- The class teacher has responsibility for the overall well-being of every child in their class. If you have any worries, speak to the class teacher first. If further support is needed, the class teacher will speak to the Inclusion Team.

We will monitor and review progress, with the child and parent, so that we can see good outcomes for them. We will do this as part of the SEND support planning cycle of assess, plan, do, review.

The school may work with other services to support children, e.g. TASS (Team around the school and setting) and the Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing in Education team, among others.

#### **16. What specialist services does the school use to support children and their families?**

As part of the cycle of SEND support (assess, plan, do, review), we will consider whether we need to involve other services to make sure the child's specific needs are met. Parents are always involved in any decision to involve specialists.

Currently, some children and their families have support in the following areas:

- Speech and language
- Dyslexia
- Autism
- Behaviour
- Emotional Needs
- ADHD
- Sensory Needs Service
- Motor skills
- Understanding our brains (neurodiversity)

We may access support from other services, including:

- Educational Psychology
- CLASS (Communication, Learning and Autism Support Service)
- Speech and language therapy
- Early years support
- Team around the school and setting (TASS)
- Occupational Therapy
- CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- Children's services

All of these resources are limited and provided by other services e.g. the NHS. We therefore have limited control over their availability.

Resources are requested and ordered as necessary to support each child's learning and with regard to the budget.

Regular meetings to monitor impact of interventions and SEND provision are managed by the SENDCo and the Inclusion Team in discussion with class teacher.

### 17. Where can I get information, advice and support?

The 'local offer' on the internet [East Sussex Local Offer](#)

Parent information : [Organisations that help families](#) | [East Sussex County Council](#)

SEND Matrix [SEN Matrix](#) | [Czone](#)

### 18. What do I do if I am not happy or if I want to complain?

School Complaints Procedure –available on the school website

[Federation Policies – The Weald Federation](#)

Most issues and concerns about school life can be resolved on an informal basis. The complaint procedure is in place to be used when parents are not happy that an informal resolution has been reached.

Arrangements for handling complaints from parents with children with SEND about the school's support are within the scope of our Complaints policy and procedure. However, specific complaints in relation to Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) procedures or content should be referred to the Local Authority and contact details are set out in our policy.

| Informal procedure                                                                                                                  | School action                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Informal discussion with the relevant class teacher or other relevant member of staff usually resulting in resolution of the issue. | The person is informed of the action to be taken to resolve the issue. If they are not satisfied, they should be provided with a copy of the school's complaints procedure and information on how to proceed to stage one. |
| Formal procedure- Stage 1                                                                                                           | School action                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| The complaint is submitted, either verbally or in writing, to the head teacher.                                                     | The Head of School or Executive Headteacher acknowledges receipt within five school days and provides a full written                                                                                                       |

|                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                         | response within 15 school days. Information is provided to the complainant on how to progress the complaint to stage 2.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Formal procedure- Stage 2</b>                                                                                        | <b>School action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| A written complaint is submitted to the chair of governors.                                                             | The chair acknowledges receipt within five school days and provides a full written response within 15 school days. Information is provided to the complainant on how to progress the complaint to stage 3.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Formal procedure- Stage 3</b>                                                                                        | <b>School action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| The complainant writes to the clerk to the governors requesting that the complaint be heard by the complaints panel.    | The clerk arranges for the complaints panel to meet between 12 and 20 school days from receipt of the letter and informs the complainant of the findings within 5 school days of the hearing. Information is provided to the complainant of how to progress the complaint to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, or the Local Government Ombudsman. |
| <b>Further recourse</b>                                                                                                 | <b>Further recourse</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| The complainant writes to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, or the Local Government Ombudsman. | The complainant writes to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, or the Local Government Ombudsman.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |