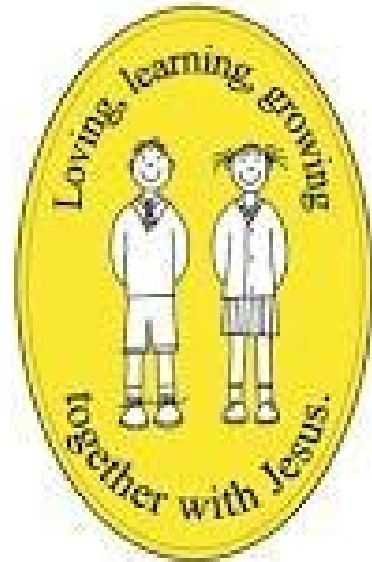


St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School



Special Educational Needs Information Report

September 2024

This annual report has been produced as a legal requirement identified in Section 69 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and contains information outlined in Schedule 1 of SEND Regulations 2014.

Our Vision

At St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School, we are proud to provide a safe, stimulating and inclusive learning environment where every member of our community is valued and respected.

At the heart of all we do are our children. Our school is a safe environment where everyone is valued equally and encouraged to achieve their full potential as part of a community, loving, learning and growing together with Jesus.

We are a larger than average-sized Catholic Junior School and we admit pupils from age 7 to 11. Our school provides caring support for all children, including our vulnerable pupils and for those who have disabilities or special educational needs. Our caring and competent staff ensure that all pupils are fully included in everything on offer. They work well with outside agencies to ensure that support is targeted appropriately for children and families who require it. Our Ofsted rating is 'Good', and our most recent inspection was in March 2024. The full inspection report can be downloaded from Ofsted's website, please visit the following link for further information.

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50245782>

1. The kinds of SEND for which provision is made

At St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School, we create and support appropriate provision for a range of special educational needs and disabilities. These needs are met at a school level (SEND Support) or through an Education Health and Care Plan as appropriate. Currently we are supporting children with a range of different needs, including: Dyslexia, Speech and Language difficulties, Autism, ADHD, Attachment, Learning Difficulties and children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties. There are many other kinds of special educational needs and disabilities which we can cater for and we are always ready to access training and advice to support us in meeting these needs as appropriate.

2. Information about policies for identification and assessment of pupils with SEND

We will know if a child needs extra help if:

- a parent, teacher, staff member or child raises their concerns
- limited progress is being made
- attainment is well below age-related expectation
- there are changes in well-being, social and emotional health or progress
- information provided at transition from KS1

If St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School feels that a child has Special Educational Needs:

- a meeting will be arranged with parents/carers to discuss the concerns and the support being put in place
- the child's name will be added to the school SEND monitoring list
- appropriate support will be provided by the class teacher and this will be monitored by the SENCo

3. Information about provision for children with SEND (with or without an Education Health and Care Plan)

The admission arrangements for pupils with or without an Education, Health and Care Plan do not discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with special educational needs – all families follow the normal school admissions procedures.

(i) How the school evaluates provision

At St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School, we assess and review the progress of all children termly. Personalised Provision Plans are reviewed termly by class teachers and these are evaluated through identification of small steps of progress. As appropriate, our curriculum, learning environments and activities are adapted to meet the needs of our pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (including those with social and emotional health needs).

(ii) Arrangements for assessing and reviewing progress

At St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School, staff track and review progress towards meeting planned outcomes once a term and the outcomes of the review feed directly into the next planning phase of the graduated approach. Whole-school monitoring and review processes are used whenever possible in order to make the best use of time, for example, all children's progress is reviewed termly and this is discussed with parents at termly Child-Centred Reviews. All staff recognise that the process needs to be planned for as it is a crucial part of the graduated approach, providing a formal opportunity to evaluate the success of day-to-day teaching and targeted provision on pupils' progress and development. Class teachers drive the process, with support from the SENCo, and consider questions such as:

- Has the child achieved the agreed targets?
- What is the evidence from day-to-day intervention tracking?
- Are the skills acquired through targeted support transferred back into class work?
- How have the pupil and parents responded to targeted provision?
- What are the views of support staff, parents and the pupil?
- How will the outcomes of this review feed back into the analysis of pupils' needs?
- What changes to support, provision and targets are needed?

(iii) Approach to teaching children with SEND

All pupils with SEND are taught a full range of subjects. All staff receive ongoing training and continued professional development. Teachers have experience of adapting lessons to make them accessible, yet appropriately challenging for all pupils. Pupils have access to all of the curriculum unless otherwise stated in an Education Health and Care Plan. Additional support in the form of a Teaching Assistant in all classrooms enables access and further engagement in lessons. Priority is given to enabling pupil independence through adaptive teaching and personalised approaches to teaching and learning as appropriate. The quality of every teacher's provision for pupils with SEND is assured through observation, learning walks, robust monitoring and review and ensuring 'quality first teaching' as a minimum.

(iv) How school adapts curriculum and learning environment

The Teacher Standards (2012) and SEND Code of Practice: 0-25 Years (2015) require all teachers to ensure all pupils in their class access learning and that they make adaptations to the curriculum, learning environment and opportunities in school to ensure this is achieved. Some of the ways in which we provide a highly inclusive curriculum and learning environment are:

- Ensuring staff have opportunities for relevant continued professional development relating to SEND.
- Teachers planning with adapted and personalised learning opportunities that allow access and success but ensure challenge.
- Providing visual timetables, task cards and various alternative ways of recording.
- Responding to outside agency advice and providing specialised resources where required.
- Responding to the views of children with SEND and their parents/carers through Parents' Evenings, Child-Centred Review meetings and SEND Support Plan documentation.
- Focused teaching opportunities within a smaller group or one-to-one basis.

(v) Additional support available

Outlined below are the different types of support that are offered to children with SEND:

a) High Quality Teaching

For your child, this means:

- the teacher has the highest possible expectations for your child and all pupils in their class
 - all teaching is based on building upon what your child already knows, can do and can understand
 - different ways of teaching are in place so that your child is fully involved in learning in class
- St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School strives to ensure all pupils receive high quality teaching.*

b) Specific small group work (sometimes called Intervention Groups in school)

For your child, this means:

- your child's teacher will have carefully checked on your child's progress and will have decided that your child has a gap in their understanding/learning and needs some extra support to help them make the best possible progress
- programmes of support will be put in place on a short term basis to help your child to 'catch up'
- your child may be taught for some of the timetable in Teaching Assistant/Intervention rooms/spaces
- led by a teacher or most often a Teaching Assistant using the teacher's plan

This type of support is available for any child who has specific gaps in their understanding of a subject/area of learning. Examples of intervention groups currently on offer at St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School are; Read, Write Inc, WellComm Speech and Language Programme, Sensory Circuits, Lego Therapy, Time to Talk, spelling groups, EALIP and English and Maths booster groups etc.

c) Highly personalised support, called Special Educational Needs Support

For your child, this means:

- in consultation with you, your child will have been identified by the Class Teacher, Year Head and/or SENCo as needing extra specialist support in school, in addition to high quality teaching and intervention groups
- you will be asked to come to a meeting to discuss your child's progress and help plan the focused support for your child through writing a Personalised Provision Plan (PPP)
- personalised support through specific strategies (which may be suggested by the SENCo or specialist professional) are in place to support your child to learn and make progress
- a Learning Support Assistant or Teacher will run these small group sessions
- you may be asked to give your permission for the school to refer your child to a specialist professional such as a Speech and Language Therapist or Educational Psychologist, to help the school to understand your child's particular needs in order to provide further focused support
- the specialist professional will work with your child to understand their needs and make recommendations, which may include:

- making changes to the way your child is supported in class, for example, some individual support or changing some aspects of teaching to support them better.

- support to set better individual targets for your child, which will include their specific expertise.

- a group run by school staff under the guidance of the outside professional, for example, a social skills group.

- a group or individual work with the outside professional.

This type of support is available for children with specific barriers to learning that cannot be overcome through high quality teaching and intervention groups. This is called Special Educational Needs Support .

d) Specified Individual support

This support is usually provided via an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan). This means your child will have been identified by the Class Teacher and SENCo as needing a more intensive level of specialist help that cannot be entirely met from the resources usually available to St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School through the delegated budget to provide SEND Support.

For your child this means:

- The school (or you) can ask the Local Authority for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment for your child.
- This is a legal process which sets out the amount of support that will be provided for your child.
- After the school have sent in the request to the Local Authority (with a lot of information about your child, including some from you), they will decide whether they think your child's needs (as described in the paperwork provided), seem complex enough to need a EHC assessment.
- If this is the case, they will ask you and all professionals involved with your child to write a report outlining your child's needs.
- After the reports have all been sent in, the Local Authority will decide if your child's needs require an EHC Plan in order to make good progress.
- If this is the case, they will write an EHC Plan.

- If this is not the case, they will ask the school to continue with Special Educational Needs Support and also set up a meeting in school to ensure a plan is in place to ensure your child makes as much progress as possible.
- The EHC Plan will outline long and short term objectives for your child and what support they will receive in order to achieve these outcomes.
- This type of support is available for children whose learning needs are complex and lifelong.

This graduated approach is evaluated using the Assess-Plan-Do-Review cycle, which begins with the Class Teacher. For each type of provision, appropriate professionals will also adopt the same approach to evaluating the successfulness and appropriateness for each child. In the 'Review' stage of the graduated approach, teachers gain a growing understanding of what approaches secure better outcomes. Teachers continually review all pupils' progress, formally and informally. It is not necessary for teachers to wait for formal review meetings before reviewing and, if appropriate, making changes to teaching approaches and other provision.

(vi) Enabling pupils to participate in activities

At St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School, we see it as a priority to commit ourselves to the highest levels of pupil participation for all children. We recognise that there must be a commitment to the long-term participation of pupils and that some pupils may need support and encouragement to help them become actively involved. Here at St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School we make best use of any available expertise. Pupils with SEND, their parents, specialist teachers, local voluntary and disability organisations are able to support us in bringing a useful perspective to help identify practices and arrangements that may act as a barrier to admitting, accommodating and including all our children within all activities.

(vii) Support for improving emotional, mental and social development of pupils with SEND

At St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School, we understand that an important feature of the school is to enable all pupils to develop emotional resilience and social skills, both through direct teaching (e.g. through our SHINE curriculum or P4C lessons) and indirect teaching (every conversation the adults have with children throughout the day). Pupils in the early stages of emotional and social development because of their special educational needs will be supported to enable them to develop and mature appropriately. This will usually require additional and different resources, beyond that required by pupils who do not need this support. The SENCo may, under the consent of the parent, feel it is appropriate to coordinate additional support through access to a mentor, time with member of SLT or management team, an external referral to CAHMS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service), or access to a therapeutic intervention. Some pupils may benefit from additional support through specific emotional and mental health strategies, such as the use of social stories, time out spaces and personalised reward charts.

4. Name and contact details of SENCo

The **Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)** at St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School is **Mrs C Medway**. Appointments can be made either in person, or by contacting:

Telephone: 0151 477 8490

The **Learning Mentor (LM)** at St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School is **Mrs C Perry**.

5. Expertise including training of staff and seeking of specialist expertise

Part of the SENCo's role in school is to support class teachers and teaching assistants in teaching children with SEND.

The school has a training plan for all staff to improve the teaching and learning of children including those with SEND, this involves whole school training on SEND issues. In the academic year 2023-2024 staff received training in a number of areas: Using PIVATS, IDL, Writing Social Stories, Dyslexia, THRIVE training, SEND Support Plan documentation.

Individual teachers and Teaching Assistants have also attended specialist training courses run by outside agencies that are relevant to the needs of specific children in their classes including Speech and Language courses, understanding and teaching children with Dyslexia etc.

At St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School, we work in partnership with a range of professionals in order to support children with SEND.

Currently, directly funded by the school:

- Educational Psychologist input to provide a higher level of service to the school

Paid for centrally by the Local Authority but delivered in school:

- Educational Psychology Service
- Specialist Teachers for children with Autism
- Speech and Language Therapy (provided by Health but funded by the Local Authority)

In addition, the SENCo can make referrals to:

- The ASD or ADHD pathways
- Speech and Language Service
- The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Social Care services / Early Help Team

6. Equipment and facilities secured for pupils with SEND

At St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School, we strongly believe in fulfilling our statutory requirement to be an inclusive school. We follow the National Curriculum and think very carefully about how we can adapt this and our learning environments appropriately for pupils with special educational needs. We also incorporate the advice provided as a result of assessments, (both internal and external) and the strategies described in Education, Health and Care Plans.

- We ensure that equipment used is accessible to all children regardless of their needs
- Extra-curricular activities are accessible for children with SEND.

- Access arrangements are made by the SENCo/Year 6 Year Head for children with SEND who take part in Standard Attainments Tests (SATs) in Year 6.
- Support is provided for children with SEND who require it at break times and other unstructured times.

Where external advisors recommend the use of equipment or facilities which the school does not have, we will purchase it using the notional SEND funding, or seek to find additional funding. For highly specialist communication equipment the school will seek the advice of relevant professionals.

St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School's Accessibility Audit and Plan are available on our website at:

https://www.smmj.co.uk/serve_file/22267706

https://www.smmj.co.uk/serve_file/22267705

7. Arrangements for consulting and involving parents

- All parents of pupils at St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School are invited to discuss the progress of their children three times a year and receive a written report once per year.
- All parents of children with SEND are invited to a Child Centred Review meeting twice a year. More time is allocated for these meetings and are attended by the class teacher, SENCo, parents, one-to-one support and/or anyone else involved in the care of the child in school.
- The class teacher is regularly available to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you may have and to share information about what is working well at home and school so similar strategies can be used.
- A home/school contact book may be used to support communication with you, when this has been agreed to be useful for you and your child.
- As part of our normal teaching arrangements, all pupils will access some additional teaching/support to help them catch-up if the progress monitoring indicates that this is necessary; this will not imply that the pupil has a special educational need.
- If following this normal provision, improvements in progress are not seen, we will contact parents to discuss the use of internal or external assessments which will help us to address these needs better. Parents will be actively supported to contribute to reviewing needs.
- Parents of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan will be invited to contribute to and attend an annual review, which, wherever possible will also include other agencies involved with the pupil.
- All information from outside professionals will be discussed with you with the person involved directly, or where this is not possible, in a report.
- The SENCo will share information with you about local support groups, courses for parents and holiday activities that are relevant to your child's needs.

8. Arrangements for consulting with our young people with SEND

When a pupil has been identified to have special educational needs because special educational provision is being made for him or her, the pupil will be consulted about and involved in the arrangements made for them as part of person-centred planning. We value the opinions of our children about their learning needs and use this information to best support their progress.

9. How complaints are dealt with

If a parent or carer has any concerns or complaints regarding the care or welfare of their child an appointment can be made by them to speak to the Head Teacher or SENCo, who will be able to provide advice on formal procedures for complaint. We encourage parents to discuss their concerns with the Class Teacher, Year Head, SENCo, Senior Leadership Team or Head Teacher to resolve the issue before making a formal complaint to the Chair of the Governing Body (Mrs M. Rawsthorne). Our complaints procedure, available from the school website, sets out the steps for making a complaint in more detail.

10. How outside bodies, LA, Health, Voluntary agencies are involved

We work closely and have strong partnerships with other agencies who are involved in meeting the needs of pupils with SEND and in supporting the families of such pupils. We may involve specialists at any point to advise us on early identification of SEND and effective support and interventions. We will always seek to involve a specialist where a pupil continues to make little or no progress or where they continue to work at levels substantially below those expected of pupils of a similar age despite support. Parents will always be involved in any decision to involve specialists. Some of the agencies we work alongside and seek advice from include:

- Educational Psychologist
- Specialist Autism Teachers
- Knowsley Behaviour Support Team
- Speech and Language Support Service
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- School Nursing Team
- Social Care

11. Contact details of support services that may help parents

In Knowsley, we have a wide range of services to help support our parents, carers or any other adults with responsibility for caring for a child. Some of the services are outlined below:

For Parent/Carers the best people to contact are the [Knowsley Parent Carers Voice](#) forum which is a local group of parents and carers that have children of their own with special education needs and disabilities ranging from new born to 25 years of age. This forum works very closely with Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council and the Local Offer.

There is also a smaller support group [Stars](#) which is a Knowsley based parent support group specifically for parents/carers of children under 10 years.

The Cheshire and Merseyside Transforming Care Partnership has commissioned [free on-line training for parents and carers of children and adults with Learning Disabilities and/ or Autism](#). The training is now available via email registration. Employers of support workers and personal assistants can access the training for a small charge.

[The Navigate Service](#) delivered by Scope is designed for parents who have a child on the pathway to diagnosis, or who have a child diagnosed with a disability or impairment within the last 12 months.

Autims.org have a [Parent to Parent Service](#), where you can talk to someone who really understands what it's like to live with a child or adult on the autism spectrum.

Daisy Chain also offer an Autism Support Helpline - A free, confidential service providing advice, support and information for neurodiverse adults, young people and their families. Covering Autism, [ADHD](#), Sensory Processing Differences **0800 031 5445**. They can offer strategies, resources, signposting to other services, advice and supportive listening.

[ADDvanced Solutions](#) Community Network's community-based groups and family learning programmes raise awareness; develop skills; share learning experiences; and build confidence. The team support children, young people, and families living with neurodevelopmental conditions, learning difficulties and associated mental health needs. Join other families on their family activity days that take place during school holidays, they include trips to the park, fun days, walks with the ranger, cookery activity days and days out. ADDvanced Solutions Community Network also have a [resource section](#) with useful downloads

If you are under 19 and involved with caring for someone, there is the [Knowsley Young Carers Support Service - 'Me Time' Programme](#) and the [Knowsley Young Carers Service](#). For young adult carers aged 17-25 there is the [Knowsley Carers Centre - Young Adult Carers Support Project](#) (found under Our Services on their website).

12. Arrangements for supporting children through transition

Joining St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School:

- The SENCo and Learning Mentor attend information sharing meetings with the Learning Mentor and SENCo of the infant school in Summer Term.
- All Year 2 classes come for visits to the junior school during the Summer Term.
- The Learning Mentor and Year 3 class teachers visit all children in Year 2 before the end of their time at the infant school, prior to their starting at the juniors.
- Year 2 parents are invited to information sharing meetings led by the Year 3 Year Head, Miss C. Finnegan.
- Parents are invited to meetings prior to their child starting to share information about their child's development (if children join St. Margaret Mary's Junior's in later years, information is gathered from their previous school).

Transitions from one-year group to the next (internal transition):

- During summer term, each class visits their next teacher and classroom during a Transition Week, where mornings are spent getting to know each other.
- For children who find transition a little more difficult, the Learning Mentor works with them in small groups, leading additional activities to ease their transition.
- A social story or transition book to support your child's understanding of moving on will be made for them if needed.
- Teachers discuss each child in detail and pass detailed transition notes to the new teacher to ensure that the best provision continues seamlessly.
- SEN Support Plans detail children's needs and what works well for them. These are informed by views from school staff, parents, pupils and reviews of progress against targets.

Transitions to Secondary school:

- Transition work begins early at St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School, with opportunities for children to visit secondary schools, or be taught in St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School by Secondary teachers (e.g. Arts Festivals, Choir concerts etc.)
- In Year 5, children have taster visits at Broughton Hall & Cardinal Heenan Catholic Secondary Provisions.
- During Year 6, the Learning Mentor, Year Head and Class Teachers prepare the children for transition using preparation lessons and activities.
- In Year 6 children spend one or two days at their new Secondary school.
- The SENCo attends Local Authority transition sessions to transfer information relating to our pupils with SEND with both Liverpool and Knowsley authorities.
- The SENCos from the Secondary schools are invited to attend the Summer Term Child Centred Reviews, with class teacher, parents, SENCo, one-to-one support and/or anyone else involved in the care of the child in school. This ensures that all SEND information, assessment data and pastoral information is passed over appropriately.
- Children with SEND, who might find the transition more difficult, are taken for small group visits to secondary schools by the Learning Mentor/SENCo where appropriate.
- Secondary staff talk to our children about their transition, here in our setting and answer any questions that the children might have as they arise.

In addition, for children in Year 6 with an EHC plan we will:

- Hold the Annual Review in Year 6 at the end of the Autumn Term to plan for the child's needs in secondary school.
- Hold a Transition meeting in Year 5 Summer Term to discuss your preferred secondary school choices.
- Hold a Child-Centred Review in Year 6 at the end of the Summer Term and invite the SENCo of the named secondary school to attend.

13. Information on where the local authority's local offer is published

The SEND Local Offer is a resource which is designed to support children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families. It describes the services and provision that are available both to families of children that have an Education, Health and Care Plan and those who do not have a plan, but still experience some form of special educational need. The SEND Local Offer includes information about public services across education, health and social care, as well as those provided by the private, voluntary and community sectors.

The Knowsley Local SEND Offer can be found on the Knowsley Council Website at:

<https://www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/knowsley-local-offer-send>

The Liverpool Local SEND Offer can be found on the Liverpool City Council Website at:

<http://fsd.liverpool.gov.uk/kb5/liverpool/fsd/localoffer.page?familychannel=10>