



Holy Cross Catholic Primary SEND Information Report 2025

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, whether into employment, further or higher education or training

Equality and Inclusion for children with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities (SEND)

What is SEND?

'A pupil has SEND where their learning difficulty or disability call for special educational provision, that is, provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age' (SEN Code of Practice).

We are an inclusive Catholic school and aim to support all children and meet their individual needs within our allocated school budget and the resources available to us.

The Code of Practice identifies 4 broad areas of need:

1. Communication and interaction

Where children and young people have speech, language and communication difficulties which make it difficult for them to make sense of language or to understand how to communicate effectively and appropriately with others.

Children and young people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder, are more likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction.

2. Cognition and learning

Where children and young people learn at a slower pace than others their age, they may:

- have difficulty in understanding parts of the curriculum
- have difficulties with organisation and memory skills
- have a specific difficulty affecting one particular part of their learning such as in literacy or numeracy

3. Social, emotional and mental health difficulties

Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which present themselves in many ways.

They may:

- have difficulty in managing their relationships with other people
- be withdrawn
- behave in ways that may hinder their and other children's learning or that have an impact on their health and wellbeing

This broad area includes attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or attachment disorder. It also includes behaviours that may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression, self-harming and eating disorders.

4. Sensory and/or physical needs

Where children and young people have visual and/or hearing impairments, or a physical need that means they must have additional on-going support and equipment.

How does our school know if children need extra help?

We know when pupils need additional support if:

- Concerns are raised by Parents/Carers
- Concerns are raised by teachers and school staff
- Concerns are raised by outside agencies
- There is a lack of progress over two terms (e.g. from September to Easter)
- There is a change in the pupil's behaviour
- A pupil asks for help

Who is responsible for children with SEND?

Your child's Class Teacher is responsible for the day to day teaching of children with SEND in their class. All children should receive Quality First Teaching; this means the children are able to access the curriculum through differentiated tasks and experiences. In some cases, this will not be enough and further focused support may be needed. The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the learning, care and safety of all pupils in our school.

Miss Susan Buscombe is our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo). She organises support for children with SEND across the school.

All of the staff in our school work in partnership with Miss Buscombe to meet the needs of our children with SEND.

To contact any of our staff who could support you please click here

<https://www.holycross.plymouth.sch.uk/web/contact/8047>

What should I do if I think my child may have SEND?

If you have concerns that your child may have additional needs, please contact :
your child's Teacher,

- Miss Susan Buscombe (SENCo and Deputy Head)
- Mrs Finola Gill (Head Teacher)

Contact can be through email, class dojo, which all parents have access to, or the school office.

Every morning there is a member of our team on the gate welcoming children into school, who is happy to support you with making contact with the best person to deal with your concerns

We also have a Governors with a responsibility for Inclusion, including SEND.
Contact for all the staff can be accessed using the link below.

<https://www.holycross.plymouth.sch.uk/web/contact/8047>

What training or specialist expertise does our staff have around supporting children with SEND?

- Class teachers continuously provide input via excellent targeted classroom provision - also known as **'Quality First teaching'**.
- All teaching staff have QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) and school staff have been trained to provide a variety of support.
- Where a training need is identified, the school is committed to ensuring that the training need is addressed. We regularly refresh our knowledge through our Teacher meetings and staff and attend training courses run by CAST or Plymouth Local authority

Our school staff are trained in the following:

- Safeguarding for the Designated safeguarding Lead and termly updates for staff
- Precision teaching (both reading and advanced)
- Lego Therapy
- CPI training
- Attachment
- Trauma Informed Approaches
- SALT support such as intensive interaction, total communication approaches and the use of PECS
- STORM (Self-harm and suicide prevention)
- Rainbows and Sunbeams (bereavement support)
- Meetings with agencies such as Communication and interaction Team to support staff working with individual children
- Miss Buscombe attends the Plymouth SENDCO Briefings and Plymouth CAST SEND Meetings. Information from these briefings are also shared with staff

How will you be supported to share your views?

All parents/carers are encouraged to contribute to their child's education. You are welcome to do this through:

- Discussions with the Class Teacher throughout the year
- Individual parents' meetings to address concerns
- During Parents' Evenings
- During planned meetings with Miss Susan Buscombe (our SENCo and Deputy Head Teacher), Mrs Finola Gill (our Head Teacher) or Mrs Elena Agapescu (our Parent Support Adviser – PSA).
- Shared written information, for example, if your child has a home-school communication book.
- Education and Health Care plans for specific children and annual review meetings
- SEND support plans for specific children
- *Team Around Me* meetings where specific targets are set

Who can I contact for further information?

If you wish to discuss your child's educational needs or are unhappy about something regarding the support your child is receiving please contact Mrs. Finola Gill (Head Teacher) or Mrs Lisa Martin (Chair of Governors)

http://www.holycross.plymouth.sch.uk/web/school_governors/38012

http://www.holycross.plymouth.sch.uk/web/complaints_procedure/38042

What specialist services and expertise can be accessed by our school?

At times it may be necessary to consult with outside agencies to receive their more specialised expertise. The agencies used by our school include;

- The Communication and Interaction Team-
- Speech and Language Team
- Educational Psychologist
- School nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Child Development Centre
- Learning Mentor
- Visual Impairment support
- Millford Special School Outreach support
- Multi-Agency Support Team
- Social Care
- CAMHS
- Audiology specialist

How does Holy Cross Catholic School support children with SEND?

Your child is always at the centre of everything we do at Holy Cross. The following can be put in place as and when it is needed for every child to access their learning and achieve to the best of their ability.

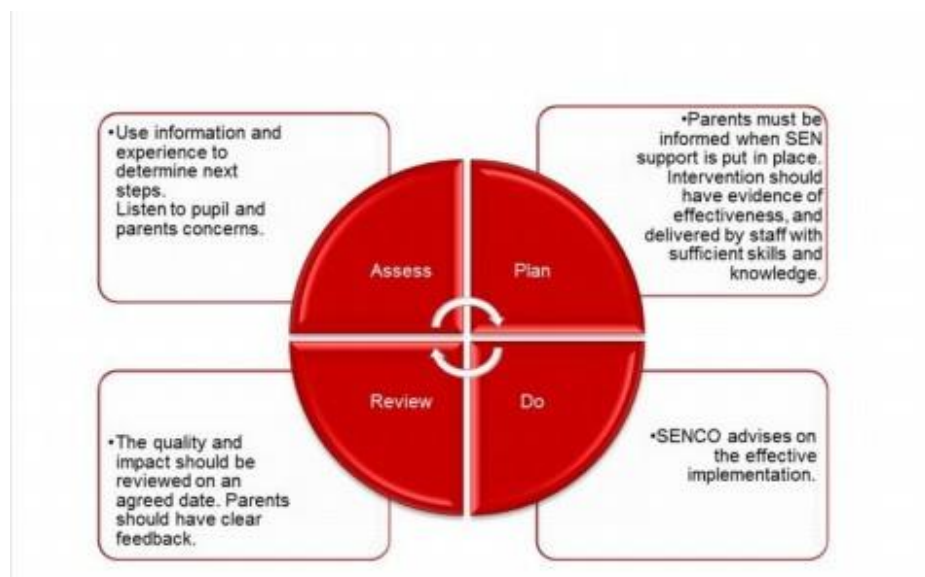
- Adaptation of the environment
- Group work or targeted provision
- A variety of different teaching approaches
- Individual SEND Support plans with targets and strategies
- Individual Risk assessments/ planning to access outdoor trips and experiences
- Contact and support from the Parent Support Advisor
- Individualised work systems to enable your child to access and achieve their learning

If a pupil is struggling to access learning in the classroom the parent is consulted and Teaching Assistants, the SENDCO, teachers and the learning mentor can provide an individualised programme of support for the pupil if needed.

If a child requires multi-agency support, a Team Around Me meeting or a EHAT (Early Assessment Tool) can be used to establish a forum for different professionals to meet to discuss support for the child and their family.

Children and parents are invited to contribute to the Annual Review meetings for children with Education Health Care Plans every year so that provision is current.

The **Graduated Response to SEND** is the process that is used to ensure each child has the most appropriate provision for them. It is shown below is a 4-part cycle through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited and refined, leading to a growing understanding for pupils' needs and of what supports the pupil in making good progress.



How do we ensure that your child is able to access and progress in all areas of school life?

We will have a meeting with you to identify the main area of need and the resulting additional support your child may need. This may include:

- Termly progress meetings as part of the monitoring process for all children in the school
- Support in a small group
- Additional lunch-time or playtime provision
- An individualised plan which is reviewed 6 weekly
- Careful monitoring

After a review of the support already given, it may be necessary to make a more detailed plan. This might include advice from out of school agencies.

How accessible is the school environment?

As a school we are happy to discuss individual access requirements.

Please see the **Accessibility policy on the school website**

http://www.holycross.plymouth.sch.uk/web/accessibility_plan/237220

How does Holy Cross Catholic Primary School support children with SEND joining or leaving our school?

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary school we understand that moving school can be a worrying time for children and their families. We try to make this easier by:

- Planning visits for children who will be joining school in the Foundation Unit.
- Sharing information between nursery/home and school if your child has SEND or if there is a concern that they have additional needs.
- At times children may need to have an 'enhanced' transition, in these cases we will work with you and other professionals to offer extra support.
- All children will be given the opportunity to have two 'moving up' mornings before they go to their next class.
- If your child needs a little more support with moving classroom and change of teacher we will create a more detailed plan of action to help them with the move. This can include a visual booklet to take home over the Summer of their new classroom and teacher
- When children are in Upper Key Stage 2 (years 5 and 6) they will be supported to think about and often visit their preferred Secondary school.
- Sometimes parents and the SENCo will need to make more detailed plans to support with choice of school and/or more visits to the new school.
- If children come to our school mid-way through a school year, we contact the old school for your child's records. Where there are additional needs the SENCo at the old and new school will share information so that we can understand their needs.
- PSA accompanies parents to secondary schools to help and support them to make informed choices

Useful SEND LINKS to:

- PIAS (Plymouth Information Advice and Support for SEND)
<http://www.plymouthias.org.uk/>
- Accessibility Policy
http://www.holycross.plymouth.sch.uk/web/accessibility_plan/237220
- **Single Equality Policy**
https://www.holycross.plymouth.sch.uk/web/single_equalities/420796
- SEN Policy
https://www.holycross.plymouth.sch.uk/web/special_educational_needs/537386

Where can I find Local Authority information about SEND?

Please click here

<https://www.plymouthonlinedirectory.com/plymouthlocaloffer/primary>

This will take you to Plymouth Council's website. Here you will find information about how the Local Authority expects schools to meet the needs of children with SEND and their families; this is called the 'Local Offer'.