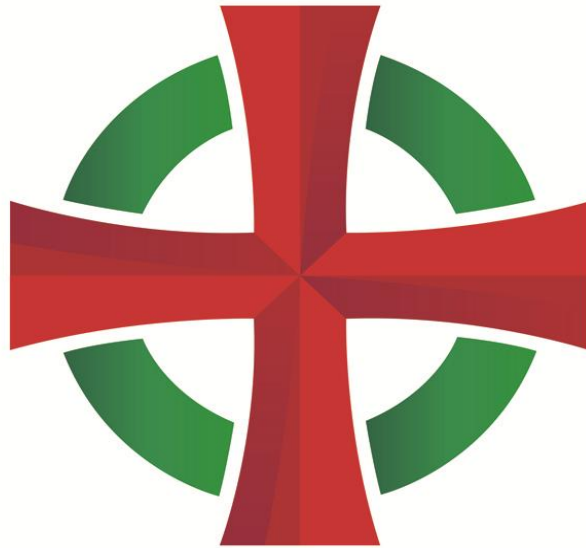




Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy 2026-2027

'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10:10).

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SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) POLICY 2026-2027

1. Introduction

The school SENDCO is: Mrs E Dempsey, email: send@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

SEND Governor is: Mrs J Hart

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (2015):

- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013
- Every Child Achieving and Thriving 2026
- SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (2015)
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teachers Standards 2021
- Teaching and Learning Policy

This policy was created by the school's SENDCO, in liaison with the SLT, governors, all staff, and parents of pupils with SEND, in line with the school's ethos and with the current legislative requirements.

Holy Cross Catholic High School is a mainstream Catholic secondary school. We believe that every teacher is a teacher of every young person, including those with SEND. If children are not able to 'learn the way we teach' then we must 'teach the way they learn'. Good practice for pupils with special educational needs is good practice for all. We are committed to ensuring that every child achieves, belongs and thrives through a high-quality inclusive education that removes barriers to learning and promotes excellent outcomes for all. This flows from our mission statement:

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10)

We are a Catholic community where every person is valued. We recognise each pupil as made in the image of God, all with different gifts and qualities. Christ is at the heart of our school and we promote a community where all pupils can be safe, be themselves, be proud of who they are, be happy and make our community a better place. This policy reflects our mission to Love God, Work Hard and Be Kind and promotes the British Values of Mutual Respect and Individual Liberty by recognising and valuing individual needs, ensuring equality of opportunity, and enabling every pupil to access a broad, balanced and inclusive education in which they can achieve their full potential.

2. Definition of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

A child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

These needs can be categorised in four key areas that may create barriers to learning:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs

We recognise SEND within the broader context of barriers to learning, participation and well-being.

Pupils have difficulty accessing the curriculum if they:

- Have significant difficulties in learning in comparison with the majority of children of the same age
- Have a disability, which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind, generally provided for children of the same age

Early identification of emerging needs may trigger special educational provision when pupils fail to make adequate progress, despite having had access to a differentiated programme. Parents will be informed that their child has special educational needs and appropriate provision identified to meet the pupil's individual need(s) will be made. Staff will be informed of updated strategies and ever-changing profiles of needs.

Parents requiring further information about the provision for SEND in the school should, in the first instance, talk to the form tutor or specific subject teacher for any concerns within the classroom, or contact the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator for whole-school SEND concerns (SENDCO) via School Synergy or send@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

The school's SEND Information Report provides much greater detail on the context of the school and the provision for children with SEND and should be read in conjunction with this policy. This can be found at:

[Statutory Information - Holy Cross Catholic High School](#)

Lancashire's Local Offer can be found at:

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/>

3. Policy Aims

At Holy Cross, we are committed to ensuring the pupils with SEND achieve strong outcomes from their starting points, in a nurturing and happy environment, to develop strong foundational knowledge and skills in reading, writing, maths, handwriting and oracy. All

pupils access a broad and balanced curriculum. We provide a high-quality, ambitious and inclusive curriculum for all learners through targeted, quality first teaching and focused provision that builds confidence, belonging and self-esteem. Barriers are removed through evidence informed practice and adaptive teaching to promote independence, participation and engagement so our pupils know more, remember more and can do more. We aim to raise the aspirations and expectations for all pupils with additional or special educational needs, by maintaining our Catholic ethos, in a manner that encourages curiosity and life-long enthusiasm for learning and fosters mutual respect for people of all faiths and cultures.

4. Policy Objectives

In order to ensure that children with SEND achieve their full potential, we will:

- Ensure that pupils participate in their learning and increase their responsibility for their learning and behaviour as they move through the school
- Ensure good working relationships with parents, carers and professionals, and multi-agency services
- Ensure that the school offers a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum that is accessible to all pupils with SEND, and promotes a culture of high expectations and achievement
- Ensure all teaching and non-teaching staff are involved in meeting the learning needs of special educational needs pupils by embedding inclusive classroom practice
- Identify pupils with SEND as early and as accurately as possible and intervene appropriately
- Identify pupils of all abilities who are underachieving, act upon this and support pupils to make progress
- Use a clear, well communicated, graduated response to implement provision and review the impact
- Maintain high expectations for all pupils, including those with SEND
- Support pupils to develop independence, communication, resilience and engagement
- Ensure successful transitions at all key stages
- Provide a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCO) who will work with the SEND Policy
- Provide support and advice for all staff working with SEND pupils
- Develop partnerships with parents/carers in the education of their child and involve parents /carers and pupils in the review process
- Produce an annual SEND Information Report

5. Identifying Special Education Needs

Identification of a Special Educational Need may occur if:

- Minimal or no progress is made, even when teaching approaches/learning styles are particularly targeted to improve the child's identified area of need

- Working continues at levels significantly below those expected for a child of a similar age, resulting in poor attainment in some curriculum areas
- Communication or interaction difficulties create barriers to learning and specific interventions are needed
- Social, emotional or mental health problems are not improved by the techniques normally employed in the nurturing environment of the school
- Sensory or physical problems create barriers to progress despite the provision of personal aids or specialist equipment

Should a pupil's barriers to learning persist, after a period of targeted intervention, following the graduated response, the SENDCO will use their discretion to access external agencies for additional support. The school aim is to work in partnership with other agencies, in order to provide integrated support based on the needs of the pupil. Please see the SEND Information Report for details of our current agencies.

Factors which are **NOT SEND** but may impact on progress and attainment:

- Disability - under the Equality Act 2010
- Attendance and Punctuality
- Health and Welfare
- EAL (English as an Additional Language)
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant
- Being a Child Looked After
- Being a Service family

Identifying disruptive behaviour as a need is no longer an acceptable way of describing SEND. Holy Cross has a consistent, clear approach to managing behaviours. The Behaviour Policy applies fairly to all and can be found on the school website.

6. The Graduated Response to SEND Support: Assess-Plan-Do-Review

Our graduated response reflects the SEND Code of Practice 2015 and offers opportunity for a continuous cycle of improvement.

The key principles:

- All class teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class, including where and how pupils access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff. All children are included in all lessons through an ethos of high-quality inclusive teaching which is adapted to respond to their strengths and needs, as set out in the Teachers' Standards (2021) and the Code of Practice 0-25 (2015)
- High quality inclusive teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEND. However, despite this, some children may require provisions additional to, and different from, the universal offer
- Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching

- When planning work for children with SEND, teachers give due regard to information and targets contained in the One Page Profile attached to pupils' individual Synergy profiles

Our Graduated Response at Holy Cross:



7. Involving Pupils and Families

At Holy Cross, we strive for open and transparent communication and co-production with families and young people, as well as other professionals. Key staff prefer to meet and discuss things face-to-face, but email is also useful as it allows for clear communication that can be referred back to, as required.

All pupils on the SEND register will complete a One Page Profile each term, to outline specific strategies. This will be shared with parents/carers to ensure collaborative practice.

For pupils with an EHCP, an annual review is undertaken to review outcomes as per the SEND Code of Practice. These will be held at the most relevant time to each specific year group.

All discussions and decisions will involve the young person directly, as we prioritise pupil voice and participation to develop a strong sense of belonging, and develop positive relationships.

The school's statutory SEND Information Report is available on the school website: [Statutory Information - Holy Cross Catholic High School](#)

8. Admission of SEND pupils

Pupils with special educational needs will be admitted to Holy Cross in line with the school's admissions policy. The school is aware of the statutory requirements with regard to SEND and will meet these requirements. We use induction/transition meetings to work closely with parents to ascertain whether a pupil has been identified as having special educational needs or a disability. If the school is alerted to the fact that a pupil may have SEND, we will endeavour to collect all relevant information during transition to determine whether a pupil's needs can be met. We will be open and transparent with parents/carers about our ability to meet their child's needs and the suitability of the provision we can offer.

Parents and carers are valued and their contribution, in terms of identification and support for pupils with SEND, is fully recognised. The arrangements to keep parents informed about matters relating to SEND (as described in this policy), are additional to the standard methods of reporting and consulting available to all parents. Pupils' own thoughts and feelings towards any aspect of their SEND provision are always prioritised and valued. Holy Cross strive to develop strong home-school partnerships to work in collaboration with joined-up services, enabling all pupils to achieve and thrive.

9. Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions

Holy Cross recognises that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school visits and physical

education. Some children with medical conditions may be disabled, and where this is the case, Holy Cross will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Some may also have special educational needs and may have an Education, Health and Care plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision and the SEND Code of Practice (2015) is followed.

Pupils who have medical needs may require intervention and support from staff in school and will require a Care Plan co-produced by the Health Service, school and the parents. This ensures a safe, agreed set of principles and procedures to ensure the pupil's safety and ensure medical needs are fully met and all health and safety arrangements have been addressed.

There are a number of first aid trained staff in school, and in the first instance, assistance is requested from the school office, by the pupil or by a representative of the pupil. Mrs Davda (Assistant SENDCO) initiates all care plans which are overseen by Mrs Dempsey (SENDCO). Mrs Waller oversees the day-to-day implementation of medical needs, emergencies and first aid. All staff are informed of changes to pupils' conditions and records are updated as required and reviewed annually. Further information about our support for medical conditions is available from the school office.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation of SEND

- SEND provision is monitored through numerous channels, such as: termly data drops, attendance and behaviour reviews, pupil and parent voice, staff feedback, One Page Profile, triage.
- The SENDCO regularly reports impact of the efficient and effective use of resources for pupils identified as having SEND to SLT and Governors.
- The monitoring and evaluation of progress of pupils with SEND is detailed in the Graduated Response section
- For pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan, annual reviews are carried out in accordance with the appropriate legislation and the SEND Code of Practice (2015)
- The SENDCO tracks data for all pupils on the SEND register and uses this, in conjunction with information gathered from other sources, to inform the evaluation of the provision, ensuring support is adjusted promptly and effectively.
- As part of the school's quality assurance, the SENDCO produces an action plan and updates progress against this termly

11. Training and Resources

- The responsibility for determining the amount of resource for SEND lies with the school Governors who will seek advice from the Headteacher and SENDCO
- The resources for SEND are used to provide TAs, specific training on SEND, specialist resources and external agency support

- The SENDCO has the key responsibility for determining the allocation of these resources in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team
- All teaching staff and TAs will be provided with relevant CPD to meet the needs of SEND within their classroom. The SENDCO is aware of relevant courses within the local area relating to SEND and advises as necessary
- The school's SENDCO regularly attends the LA's SENDCO network meetings in order to keep up to date with local and national updates in SEND and regularly attends local cluster meetings, to share good practice and discuss relevant SEND issues with SENDCOs in other schools and educational establishments
- Whole school training on SEND is arranged, as appropriate and teaching assistants are invited. This may be delivered by the SENDCO or by specialist services working with particular pupils.
- There is an expectation that staff who receive training will disseminate their knowledge to others to benefit all working in SEND
- All teachers and support staff undertake induction on taking up a post and this includes a meeting with the SENDCO to explain the systems and structures

12. Roles and Responsibilities

- The Governors must have regard for the SEND Code of Practice (2015) and the Children and Families Act (2014) when carrying out their duties towards all pupils with SEND
- The Governors and Headteacher are responsible for the school's policy and approach to meeting the needs of pupils' with SEND
- The SEND Governor is Mrs J Hart, who meets with the SENDCO, to discuss SEND issues. The SEND Governor reports these to the governing body, and challenges and supports the SENDCO
- The SENDCO is responsible for coordinating all SEND matters. The Headteacher and the SEND Governor, in liaison with the SENDCO, will keep the Governing Body informed of the special educational needs provision made by the school
- The SENDCO is responsible for keeping a register of pupils with SEND and updating this; supporting TAs in writing One Page Profile targets and assessing pupil progress; purchasing and organising resources; liaising with external agencies; making referrals; ensuring that appropriate records are kept; supporting the transition of pupils with SEND into the school and onto further education or employment; liaising with the SEND Governor and preparing appropriate reports; liaising with non-teaching staff in relation to SEND
- Teaching Assistants have an invaluable role in supporting those with SEND. They may deliver targeted 1:1 or small group intervention and in-class support under the direction of the SENDCO

13. Storing and Managing Information

Documents relating to children with SEND are stored in a locked cupboard or a locked filing cabinet in school and/or on a password protected database. Records relating to children who have left are stored safely in a locked storeroom for the period of time required.

No information will be shared with external agencies without the consent of the parent/carers.

14. Accessibility

The school's Accessibility Plan is available on the school website: [Accessibility-Policy-2025.pdf](#)

Anyone wishing to contact staff at school can telephone the reception 01257 262093, or can email admin@holycross.lancs.sch.uk. The enquiry will then be passed to the relevant person.

15. Dealing with Complaints

Staff at Holy Cross are committed to ensuring pupils feel happy and safe in school. In the unusual situation that a concern arises with the provision of SEND, the issue should be raised with the SENDCO. If a satisfactory resolution is not achieved, then a complaint should be made following the Complaints Policy and Procedure, which is available on the school's website. This procedure does not affect any statutory rights that parents/carers may have. The family of a pupil with SEND always has the right to seek support from Lancashire SENDIAS (SEND Information, Advice and Support). Information is available on the Local Authority website and in Lancashire's Local Offer.

Appendices

- SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (2015)
- Equality Act 2010
- Disability and Discrimination Act 1995
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teachers Standards 2021
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Every child achieving and thriving 2026

Updated: Summer 2026

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