



POLICY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Rationale

Courtlands School is designated as a school for children with moderate learning difficulties aged 4-11 years who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs, as specified by the Education Reform Act 1981. Within that designation the school caters for the needs of children who are recommended to it by the psychological service and other support agencies. In addition to their learning difficulties many children also have emotional, behavioural, medical and speech and language difficulties.

Access to the National Curriculum is required for all our children, and the Dearing Report (1995) revised the Orders in each subject to facilitate this. Where necessary school staff are given the discretion to teach pupils from Programmes of Study of earlier Key Stages without recourse to formal modification or disapplication procedures, providing due consideration is given to age-appropriate learning contexts. This means that an 11-year-old pupil with moderate learning difficulties can be taught those aspects of subjects at Key Stage 2 which are relevant and can be rendered accessible, while at the same time continuing to work on suitable material in the programmes of study at Key Stage 1.

The staff at Courtlands School will always endeavour to meet the needs of all children within the school, but too wide a range of need within classes will inevitably lead to children's progress and potential being underdeveloped.

In order to combat this, the following guidelines should be considered.

Guidelines

- In line with the school's Admission policy all children should be interviewed prior to admission. Any child who appears to have additional special needs should be mentioned to the local authority and placed on a term's trial basis, which should also be explained to the parents.
- All children who attend the school will have an Individual Education Programme.
- In the event of a child's needs not being met within class the teacher should firstly consult with departmental colleagues and then the whole staff for assistance.
- If the child's needs are still not being met the educational psychologist for the school should be consulted.
- All 'additional' special needs should initially be assessed and objectives set for meeting those needs within the Individual Education programme.

- Concerns over a child's provision at the school should be discussed with the parents as soon as necessary by the headteacher and class teacher, in order to agree a strategy.
- Every child's Statement is reviewed annually with the parents by all professionals involved with the child.
- The school has a named Governor for children with special educational needs.
- Class sizes should not exceed 10 (unless by arrangement with the teacher and head of department).

The staff at Courtlands School strive to meet the wide variety of needs that they encounter (and work diligently to achieve this aim). This policy is designed to clarify how our children's needs can be met within the changing face of our educational system.