

## **SEND Information Report**

September 2025

SENDCo: Alice Hall

SEND Governor: Laura Blackledge

### **Whole Academy Approach:**

Manchester Communication Primary Academy is an inclusive mainstream academy with 2 form-entry from Nursery to Year 6 in addition to one mixed-age additional resource class. There are currently 421 children on roll although we have capacity for 472. We are committed to providing a broad curriculum for all children.

Children are taught an innovative, engaging and challenging curriculum. All children, including those with SEND, are supported to make the best possible progress.

The building is a relatively new build, being purpose built and opening its doors in 2015. The academy has two floors with lift access and disabled toilets with particularly good access to the ground floor. Teaching spaces downstairs are semi open- plan and therefore easily accessible. Over the years, more walls have been built to support children with a variety of additional needs which has now provided us with smaller spaces for interventions or nurture groups.

All children are offered Quality First Teaching in the first instance. We follow a policy of early identification when it comes to children with additional needs. This is done through referral to the school SENDCo. This will then be followed by an observation and book look and the child will be added to the monitoring list. Part of the process of early identification is to involve parents as early as possible as they are key to identifying need and it is essential that they are informed of what is happening with their child in school. We then work collaboratively across school and with wider agencies to ensure that children achieve their full potential. Following on from a referral and observation, strategies are put in place to support the child internally. These are reviewed regularly, making alterations where needed and assessing whether support is effective or not.

If it is then felt that the child needs a higher level or continued targeted support, the child would be added to the SEND register and assigned to an MCPA tier (see table below). A Personal Learning Plan (PLP) will be created to ensure that the child has their small steps of progress identified and that they are receiving the provision they need. These are reviewed no less than twice a year, with new actions being decided at each point. It is important to have the input of parents and carers, as well as teachers at each review point. If further support is required, we may refer to our Speech Therapy Service, an Educational Psychologist, or any further relevant professional. Parental permission will always be obtained prior to referral.

## **SEND Needs:**

Children and young people's SEND are generally thought of in the following four broad areas of need and support:

### **1. Speech, Language and communication**

For children experiencing difficulties with speech, language and communication, we have access to 2 speech therapists one day a week. Younger children complete a Wellcomm screener on entry to the school, and engage in subsequent targeted activities in order to enhance their language skills early on and to further support our policy of early identification. We also have three specialist ELKLAN trained TAs who are able to carry out interventions and further staff attending training this year.

### **2. Cognition and learning**

We have a number of interventions taking place throughout the day. Some of these are class based such as maths and literacy boosters, carried out by the class teacher or teaching assistant. Some, more specialised, interventions are delivered through the inclusion team. These would be classed as Tier 2 interventions and include dyslexia interventions and other specialist programmes. We follow the inclusive ethos that children should receive adaptive teaching within their lessons in order to meet their targets, however, some children may need to be taught in a small group for certain curriculum areas.

### **3. Social, emotional and mental health**

We use a number of social skills interventions to support the Social, Emotional and Mental Health of our children. We have a trained ELSA member of staff who works on an individual basis with children and we also have access to mentors and counsellors from Place2Be. Children may work in small groups using social stories, or work with a TA at certain times to ensure they get the best from their learning. Older children enjoy time to read specialist children's books which focus on various aspects of a child's wellbeing and teaches them how to deal with situations from the perspective of the characters.

Universal mental health provision in the school is extensive, this includes directly taught aspects in the personal development curriculum and well-being Wednesday activities and daily emotional check-ins with follow up. We have a weekly pastoral huddle where we discuss any children who may be experiencing difficulties and decide as a team how we can support them.

Some children may require the academy counsellor to enable them to work through any issues. We were successful in being accredited for the nurturing schools' programme in 2024.

### **4. Sensory and/or physical needs**

As an inclusive school, our building is entirely accessible for children with sensory or physical needs. We have the use of a hoist and a changing bed where necessary,

and a lift to move between floors. We offer a variety of equipment to support the children, for example; noise cancelling headphones, fidget toys and sensory play equipment. We take advice from the Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists who are working with the children before carrying out any interventions. We also have access to an Occupational Therapist 1 day a week who works on an individualised basis with identified children. School has a designated sensory room which allows children to access a sensory break as and when needed.

As of September 2025, we have 92 children receiving some form of SEND Support, 23 of these with an Educational Health and Care Plan.

### **SEND Provision**

Our approach to identification and assessment of Special Educational Needs is set out in our SEND Policy dated September 2025. We have set out below a summary of information on the academy's approach to SEND which covers the following areas:

- Teaching pupils with SEND
- Adapting the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with SEND
- How additional support, equipment and facilities are made available for pupils with SEND
- Assessing and reviewing the progress of pupils with SEND
- Promoting inclusion between all pupils regardless of whether they have SEND
- Supporting the Social, Emotional and Mental Health development of SEND pupils (including additional pastoral support arrangements)
- Evaluating the effectiveness of our SEND provision

Where the academy needs additional support or expertise to meet the needs of a pupil with SEND, it may be necessary to call upon support from external agencies for example; the Local Authority, Occupational Therapy, CAMHs, Speech and Language Therapy and Educational Psychologists. Our approach in such situations is to ensure that the parents are fully informed, have given their views on the situation and have given consent before contacting other professionals. In all circumstances, we endeavour to organise a meeting with the parents and the professionals involved to ensure all views are heard.

## Consulting with children, young people and their parents

Involving parents and learners in the dialogue is central to our approach and we do this through:

Action/Event	Who's involved	Frequency
PLPs sent out.	SENDCo, teachers, Inclusion team, Parents	Once a term
Individual meeting with SENDCo	SENDCo and parents	Where necessary
Parents' evening	SENDCo, teaching team, parents	Once a term
Invitation to meetings with outside agencies.	SENDCo, Inclusion team member, Class Teacher	Where necessary.
Team around the child meeting/annual review	Anyone involved with the child's education/well-being.	Once a year for an EHCP review or when applying for an EHCP.

There are external support services available for parents of children with SEND. The contact details for these services are set out below:

The Information, Advice and Support service Manchester (IAS)

0161 2098356 (weekdays from 10am-3pm)

## Staff contacts and development

The SEND provision within our academy is co-ordinated by the SENDCo/Assistant Head. Our SENDCo is Alice Hall who can be contacted at the academy by email [alice.hall@mca.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:alice.hall@mca.manchester.sch.uk)

We are committed to developing the ongoing expertise of our staff. We have current expertise in our academy:

Member of staff	Area of expertise	Level
Mrs Hall	Early Years/Speech and Language	SENDCo/Assistant Head
Miss Zebedee	Early Years/Sensory/Autism	Teacher
Mrs Torkamani	Speech and Language EAL	Lead TA Speech and Language
Miss Howse	Sensory/Autism	Tutor
Mrs Riley	SEMH	TA/ Forest Schools Lead
Miss McCullough	Sensory/Autism	Lead TA
Miss Jallow	Sensory/Autism	TA
Miss Dillon	Nurture/Sensory/Autism	Lead TA
Miss Hunt	Nurture/Sensory/Autism	TA
Miss Ndey	Physical/Intimate Care	Support Assistant
Mrs Pears	Physical/Intimate Care	Support Assistant
Miss Leary	SALT	TA

We have 3 members of staff trained in ELKLAN training. This is a specialist Speech and Language course which enables Level 3 and above TAs to complete specific speech interventions. We have further members of staff completing ELKLAN training this school year.

## **Deployment of Resources**

Considerable thought, planning and preparation goes into utilising our support staff to ensure children achieve the best outcomes, gain independence and are prepared for adulthood from the earliest possible age.

We have a large team of Teaching Assistants throughout the academy. Each class has a Teaching Assistant based in their class to support the needs in the classroom. We also have an inclusion team which comprises of 1 Teacher, 6 Teaching Assistants, 1 Tutor and 2 LSAs. The Inclusion team deliver interventions which require a more specialist approach to children throughout the school.

Some of our children who have an Educational Health Care Plan require 1:1 support at certain times during their day. We therefore have some Teaching Assistants who operate on a 1:1 basis. This however, is a minority of pupils. Where possible, we feel that it is beneficial for children to work with a variety of adults during their school day. For this reason, we ensure that children spend the majority of their day integrated into their classes with TA support. This is continuously monitored to ensure that children are receiving the correct level of support.

We operate a SEND support class called the NEST, which is taught by the SEND class teacher. This class is split into 2 groups (the nest and the fledglings) who have access to 3 rooms.

Our NEST and Fledgling provisions are an autism friendly space for a small group of children within school who have been identified as requiring a more specialist education. We have designed two new provisions within school which cater to our children in school with the highest level of need who are unable to access a mainstream classroom environment. These spaces have been developed with support from professionals such as Educational Psychology, Speech & Language, and Occupational Therapy. There is a qualified teacher working in both classrooms who has designed a broad and balanced curriculum to support the children with their independent targets. We are constantly striving to secure the best provision for the children in the NEST and Fledgling rooms.

Children with SEND or disabilities may, from time to time, require access to different equipment or facilities. We aim to support these needs following an evidence-based approach, utilising internal and external resources. We have an accessible changing bed and hoist which is always operated by 2 fully trained members of staff. This ensures safety and complies with the academy's intimate care policy.

## **Academy Partnerships and Transitions**

The Academy works with a number of external partners including: Lancasterian Outreach Service, Manchester Sensory Support Service, CAMHs, Early Help, One Education, Rodney House, City of Manchester Learning Partnership, Connect AP, Improving Young Lives, Catalyst, SALT, and Occupational Therapy. Extending our academy approach, we commission services by using an outcomes-based approach. We believe this has benefited our children/young people and their families in the following ways:

- Specialist advice and support where necessary.
- Support for Statutory Assessment if needed.
- Ensuring that all children have the support they require.

The Academy works closely with the local authority which retains a strategic role across its area to support SEND provision. Details of that support are set out in the local authority's local offer which can be found at –

<https://hsm.manchester.gov.uk/kb5/manchester/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>

## **Complaints**

Our complaints procedure is located here: <https://www.mcpacademy.co.uk/policies> . Please note that appeals and complaints about decisions taken by the local authority should be made to that body. The academy's complaints procedure cannot be accessed to resolve such complaints.

Complaints regarding a child with SEND's support and provision, should be directed to the academy's SENDCo in the first instance, as per the complaints policy. Support will be provided for any Parent/Carer making a complaint who themselves have Special Educational Needs and/or a disability. Additional support can also be accessed via [www.sen-help.org.uk](http://www.sen-help.org.uk)

## **Challenges this year**

Last year we had several successful applications for statutory assessment, where children received Educational, Health Care Plans. However, challenges for our academy this year include a significant increase in need in our Early Years. We are working closely with Rodney House and the Statutory Assessment team to ensure the children get the correct support identified.

Historically, the availability of educational psychology in the EYFS had been a barrier to securing EHCPs early. In response, the academy has sourced and funded additional EP services from another provider (Catalyst) in addition to One Education.

Within our school, 2.8% of pupils have been identified as requiring enhanced provision. These pupils access support through our NEST class. Over half of these pupils currently

have an EHCP in place. For those without an EHCP, the majority are either new to our setting, or an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) has already been initiated either by their previous school or by our team at MCPA. There is an ongoing challenge in securing appropriate specialist placements due to a shortage of available spaces locally.

The school SENDCo works closely with the EHCP Coordinator and the outreach teams to regularly review individual pupil needs and consult the correct settings for the needs of the children within MCPA.

This academic year, a key challenge will be the development of the NEST class despite a lack of clear national guidance on curriculum expectations for pupils within an Autism Resource Classroom in a mainstream setting. We are committed to ensuring that provision is tailored, accessible, and responsive to pupil needs. The delivery of this high-quality provision requires increased staffing to maintain appropriate adult-to-child ratios and ensure children are supported to work to their individual targets, and specialist equipment purchases to meet individual needs

Our EYFS classrooms currently have a high level of children presenting with Communication and Interaction needs and Social, Emotional, and Mental Health needs. The inclusion team and early years team are committed to working together, alongside professionals to ensure we can support these children through early identification and meet their needs within class. We are part of the Flying Start programme which, alongside Dingley's Promise training, has upskilled our team and given them confidence, however, due to staff transience and a new cohort of children, we have had to alter our curriculum and provision to reflect the generational need across Manchester.

We have seen a significant increase in children who are not toilet trained and need regular support during the day for intimate care. We are working closely with parents and external professionals where appropriate to ensure we can meet these children where they are working and support them with developing securely.

### **Further development**

Our strategic plans for developing and enhancing SEND provision in our academy next year include; upskilling staff in class to ensure their practice is accessible to all, upskilling the Inclusion Team to offer a wider range of support in school, and continuing to request the appropriate level of support from the Local Authority.

The Inclusion Team, class teacher, classroom TAs, Lead TAs and the SENDCO will ensure that the children with SEND, will make the necessary progress. Each child will have at least 1 PLP target relevant to progress in core subjects. They may inform interventions for other TAs or teachers to complete or flag up any issues.

**Relevant academy policies underpinning this SEND Information Report include:**



SEND Policy

Behaviour Policy

Safeguarding Policy

Intimate care policy

**Legislation and Guidance taken into account when compiling this report include:**

- Children & Families Act 2014
- SEND Regulations 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- SEND Code of Practice 2015

**Date presented to/approved by Governing Body:**

**Date of next review:** September 2026