

Identification of SEND in Early Years

At St Joseph's and St Gregory's Catholic Primary School the Early Years includes nursery children, from age 2Y 9M or 3Y, and reception children from age 4Y.

The majority of these children have characteristics that make it difficult for them to demonstrate evidence of age-typical development. These characteristics include: EAL learning (70-80% of cohort), limited engagement with health and other early childhood services and a limited home learning environment. Many of our children have not had the opportunity or experiences that aid development until they join Early Years. Our experience shows that most children make rapid progress when they are in the rich learning environment that we provide.

For this reason, it is our policy not to identify children as having SEN unless there is medical involvement or involvement with the Borough Early Years Support Team (or strong evidence that outside agencies should be involved). For children joining the school in YR, evidence from previous settings informs our decision.

After initial assessment, enhanced provision is made to support accelerated development during the nursery phase for those many children who need it. This continues in YR if appropriate. For children without pre-school education, who join us in YR, assessment and enhanced provision takes place during the reception year.