



SENCO

Strathmore Infant and Nursery School is committed to creating a diverse workforce. We'll consider all qualified applicants for employment without regard to sex, race, religion, belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy, maternity, age, disability, marriage or civil partnership.

Job details

Job title: Special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO)

Salary: Main Scale or UPS plus SEND Allowance

Hours: Up to 22 hours a week, 0.6 (hours and days are flexible).

Contract type: Part time, maternity leave until May 2026

Reporting to: Headteacher

Responsible for: Teaching Assistants and liaising/supporting teaching staff

Main purpose

The SENCO, under the direction of the headteacher, will:

- Determine the strategic development of special educational needs (SEND) policy and provision in the school
- Be responsible for day-to-day operation of the SEND policy (including other SEND related policies) and co-ordination of specific provision to support individual pupils with SEND
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues, working closely with staff, parents and other agencies
- The SENCO will be expected to fulfil the responsibilities of a teacher, as set out in the STPCD

Duties and responsibilities

Strategic development of SEN policy and provision

- Have a strategic overview of provision for pupils with SEN or a disability across the school, monitoring and reviewing the quality of provision
- Contribute to school self-evaluation, particularly with respect to provision for pupils with SEN or a disability
- Make sure the SEND policy is put into practice and its objectives are reflected in the school development plan (SDP)
- Maintain up-to-date knowledge of national and local initiatives that may affect the school's policy and practice
- Evaluate whether funding is being used effectively, and suggest changes to make use of funding more effective

Operation of the SEN policy and co-ordination of provision

- Maintain an accurate SEND register and provision map
- Provide guidance to colleagues on teaching pupils with SEN or a disability, and advise on the graduated approach to SEND support
- Advise on the use of the school's budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively, including staff deployment

- Be aware of the provision in the local offer
- Work with early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals, and other external agencies
- Be a key point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA)
- Analyse assessment data for pupils with SEN or a disability
- Implement and lead intervention groups for pupils with SEN, and evaluate their effectiveness

Support for pupils with SEN or a disability

- Identify a pupil's SEND or potential SEND need
- Co-ordinate provision that meets the pupil's needs, and monitor its effectiveness
- Secure relevant services for the pupil
- Ensure records are maintained and kept up to date
- Review the education, health and care plan (EHCP) with parents or carers and the pupil
- Communicate regularly with parents or carers
- Ensure if the pupil transfers to another school, all relevant information is conveyed to it, and support a smooth transition for the pupil
- Lead on Acorn club each day for those pupils who require a calmer and smaller area to eat and play during lunch times (nurture provision)
- Promote the pupil's inclusion in the school community and access to the curriculum, facilities and extra-curricular activities

Leadership and management

- Work with the headteacher and governors to ensure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 in terms of reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Prepare and review information the governing board is required to publish
- Contribute to the school development plan and whole-school policy
- Identify training needs for staff and how to meet these needs
- Lead INSET for staff
- Share procedural information, such as the school's SEND policy
- Promote an ethos and culture that supports the school's SEND policy and promotes good outcomes for pupils with SEN or a disability
- Lead on the role of designated teacher for looked-after children
- Lead and manage teaching assistants (TAs) working with pupils with SEN or a disability
- Lead staff appraisals and produce appraisal reports
- Review staff performance on an ongoing basis
- Be an active member of the Senior Leadership Team

Other areas of responsibility

- Organise and manage Teaching Assistant absences
- Lead on a curriculum subject area

The SENCO will be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, and follow school policies and the staff code of conduct. Please note that this is illustrative of the general nature and level of responsibility of the role. It is not a comprehensive list of all tasks that the SENCO will carry out. The postholder may be required to do other duties appropriate to the level of the role, as directed by the Headteacher.

Person specification

CRITERIA	QUALITIES
Qualifications and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Qualified teacher status › National Award for SEN Co-ordination, or a willingness to complete it within 3 years of appointment › Degree › Mental Health Lead training (desirable) › STEPS training
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Teaching experience (minimum of year – 6) › Experience of working at a whole-school level › Involvement in self-evaluation and development planning › Experience of conducting training/leading INSET
Skills and knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Sound knowledge of the SEND Code of Practice › Understanding of what makes ‘quality first’ teaching, and of effective intervention strategies › Ability to plan and evaluate interventions › Data analysis skills and the ability to use data to inform provision planning › Effective communication and interpersonal skills › Ability to build effective working relationships › Ability to influence and negotiate › Good record-keeping skills
Personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Commitment to getting the best outcomes for pupils and promoting the ethos and values of the school › Commitment to equal opportunities and securing good outcomes for pupils with SEN or a disability › Ability to work under pressure and prioritise effectively › Commitment to maintaining confidentiality at all times › Commitment to safeguarding and equality

Notes:

This job description may be amended at any time in consultation with the postholder.

If you don't have all of the experience listed above, but are interested in applying, contact Rachel Howes via head@strathmore.herts.sch.uk

This post is classed as having a high degree of contact with children or vulnerable adults and is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. An enhanced disclosure will be sought through the DBS as part of Hertfordshire County Council's pre-employment checks. Please note that additional information referring to the Disclosure and Barring Service is in the guidance notes to the application form. If you are invited to an interview you will receive more information.

This role will be reviewed annually as part of the PMD process. The duties and responsibilities listed above describe the post as it is at present. The post holder is expected to accept any reasonable alterations that may from time to time be necessary.