



SEND POLICY

Adopted: January 2017

Next review date: January 2018

Special Educational Needs and Disability ('SEND') Policy

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (15th August 2014) and has been written with reference to the following guidance and conditions:

- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013
- SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (June 2014)
- Schools SEND Information Report Regulations (2014)
- Statutory Guidance on Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (April 2014)
- The National Curriculum in England Key Stage 2 framework document (September 2013)
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teachers Standards 2012

The SEND Co-ordinator (SENDCO) for the school is Mrs Catherine Inglis who is a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team. Mr Godber is the SEND Link Governor who takes special interest in SEND, although the Governing Body as a whole is responsible for making provision for pupils with special educational needs.

School Ethos

- At Elm Academy our aim is to ensure every pupil has the opportunity to achieve his or her best. We do this by always placing our school's mantra at the forefront of everything we do: 'High Expectations Lead to High Achievers.'
- We are committed to providing an inclusive curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all our pupils whatever their needs or abilities. Not all pupils with disabilities have special educational needs (SEND) and not all pupils with SEND meet the definition of disability, but this policy covers all these pupils.

We aim to achieve this through the removal of barriers to learning and participation. We want all our pupils to feel that they are a valued part of our school community. Through appropriate curricular provision, we respect the fact that pupils:

- Have different educational and behavioural needs and aspirations.
- Require different strategies for learning.
- Acquire, assimilate and communicate information at different rates.
- Need a range of different teaching approaches and experiences.

Teachers and support staff respond to pupil needs by:

- Providing support for pupils who need help with communication, language and literacy.
- Planning to develop pupil understanding through use of all their senses and through varied experiences.
- Planning for pupils' full participation in learning, in physical and practical activities.
- Helping pupils to manage their behaviour and to take part in learning effectively and safely.
- Helping individuals manage their emotions and to take part in learning.

Definition and purpose of the SEND policy

High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will meet the individual need of the majority of children and young people. Some children and young people need educational provision that is additional to or different from this.

Section 21 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

A child has additional educational needs if he or she:

- Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age.
- Has a disability which prevents or hinders the child from making use of educational facilities of a kind provided for children of the same age in other schools within the Local Authority. For the purposes of this policy, a child is deemed to have individual learning needs if he/she:
- Has significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age;
- Has a disability which either prevents or hinders her/him from making use of the educational facilities of the kind usually provided for children of the same age.

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Disabled Children

Many children and young people who have SEND may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 – that is ‘...a physical or mental impairment which has a long term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’.

There is a significant overlap between disabled young people and those with special educational needs. Where a young person requires special educational provision over and above the adjustments, aids and services required by the Equality Act 2010 they will be additionally covered by the SEND definition.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:

- The needs of those children with SEND are identified early through rigorous assessment and appropriate provision put in place to meet their individual needs;
- Those children with SEND receive their full entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum and appropriate inclusion in all school activities;
- Children with SEND are valued equally along with all other children and will be enabled and encouraged to develop their potential to the full.

Aims and Objectives of the SEND policy

The SEND policy aims to:

- To provide a broad, balanced and suitably differentiated curriculum relevant to student needs, through all staff sharing responsibility for SEND.
- To recognise and respond to the changing needs of pupils;
- Implement an approach to the early identification and assessment of children with additional special educational needs;

- To ensure access to a challenging, relevant and differentiated curriculum for all children through the provision of appropriate resources and support;
- To provide support and advice for all staff working with children who have special educational needs.
- To work in cooperative and productive partnership with the Local Authority and other outside agencies, to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of all vulnerable learners.
- To involve children and their parents/carers in developing a partnership of support, enabling them full confidence in the strategy as adopted by the Academy.
- To ensure that pupils receive the provision set out in their Statement of Educational Need and their Education Health and Care Plan.

To fulfil these aims we intend to:

- Demonstrate that meeting the needs of children' learning and/or behaviour is part of high quality education.
- Employ a variety of strategies, including differentiation and support both in and outside of classes for children with special needs;
- Promote links with outside agencies and parents;
- Deliver relevant CPD which will foster a greater understanding of the needs of children and equip staff with a variety of tools and strategies for use in the classroom;
- To carefully map and monitor provision for all vulnerable learners to ensure that staffing deployment, resource allocation and choice of intervention is leading to good learning outcomes.
- Co-ordinate access arrangements for public examinations at key stage 2 and advise children and parents on the available options.
- To work within the guidance provided in the SEND Code of Practice 2014 and regularly review the policy and practical arrangements to achieve best value.

IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING CHILDREN WITH SEND

The SEND Code of Practice 2014 does not assume that there are hard and fast categories of SEND. It recognises that children's needs and requirements fall into four broad areas:

- Communication and interaction;
- Cognition and learning;
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties;
- Sensory and/or physical needs.

In line with the SEND Code of Practice we accept that children at Elm Academy often have needs that are a combination of all these: although children predominately display a range of social, emotional and mental health needs, the behaviours displayed by some of them can also be a result of additional communication and learning difficulties, and other underlying factors.

We have a clear approach to identifying and responding to additional SEND. All teachers are responsible for understanding existing SEND needs of individual children but also identifying children with additional SEND and, in collaboration with the Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo), will ensure that those children requiring different or additional support are identified at an early stage.

The student's attainment is assessed on or soon after entry to the Academy in order to provide a baseline assessment and to ensure continuity of learning. This may flag up children who require additional class based interventions and/or further assessment. We also gather information from the previous school and other professionals already involved if relevant.

Once at Elm Academy, information is regularly gathered about every student's progress, alongside national data and expectations of progress. Academic data is updated termly and shared with children and parents. Progress is the crucial factor in determining the need for additional support. Less than expected progress might:

- be significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline;
- fail to match or better the student's previous rate of progress;
- fail to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers;
- widen the attainment gap.

Children may also be identified via pastoral and academic tracking meetings where attendance and behaviour data are considered. Where teachers decide that a student is making less than expected progress despite verified high quality, differentiated teaching, they will consult parents/carers and carry out further class based assessments. A period of additional class based interventions will then follow.

Managing children with SEND

All pupils will be provided with high quality teaching that is differentiated to meet the diverse needs of all learners.

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- Pupils with a disability will be provided with reasonable adjustments (such as auxiliary aids and services) to overcome any disadvantage experienced in schools and increase their access to the taught curriculum.
- The quality of classroom teaching provided to pupils with SEND is monitored through a number of processes that includes:

1. Classroom observation by the Education leadership team and/or external verifiers,
2. Ongoing assessment of progress made by pupils with SEND,
3. Work sampling and scrutiny of planning to ensure effective matching of work to pupil need,
4. Teacher meetings with the SENDCo to provide advice and guidance on meeting the needs of pupils with SEND,
5. Pupil and parent feedback on the quality and effectiveness of interventions provided,
6. Attendance and behaviour records.

Action relating to SEND support will follow an assess, plan, do and review model:

1. **Assess:** Data on the pupil held by the school will be collated by the class/subject teacher in order to make an accurate assessment of the pupil's needs. Parents will always be invited to this early discussion to support the identification of action to improve outcomes.
2. **Plan:** If review of the action taken indicates that "additional to and different from" support will be required, then the views of all involved including the parents and the pupil will be obtained and

appropriate evidence-based interventions identified, recorded and implemented by the class/subject teacher with advice from the SENDCo.

3. **Do:** SEND support will be recorded on a pupil passport that will identify a clear set of expected outcomes, which will include relevant academic and developmental targets that take into account parents' aspirations for their child. Parents and the pupil will also be consulted on the action they can take to support attainment of the desired outcomes. This will be recorded and a date made for reviewing attainment.

4. **Review:** Progress towards these outcomes will be tracked and reviewed termly with the parents and the pupil.

If, despite class teacher intervention the student continues to make less than expected progress, the SENDCO and Head of Key Stages are consulted. With parental agreement, the Academy will liaise with outside professionals if they are already involved with the student. For higher levels of need, the SENDCO will draw on more specialised assessments from external agencies and professionals. We expect children and parents to participate as fully as possible in the assessment, planning and reviewing process.

For a very small percentage of pupils, whose needs are significant and complex and the SEND Support required to meet their needs cannot reasonably be provided from within the school's own resources, a request will be made to the local authority to conduct an assessment of education, health and care needs. This may result in an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan being provided.

Access Arrangements

In order to enable equal access to exams, access arrangements may be applied for where this has been the children's normal way of working. A referral will be made to the Educational Psychologist and results used to apply for access requirements to the board by the examinations officer. Parents and children will be informed of the board's decision. Access arrangements can be for one or more of the following:

- Extra time up to 25%
- A reader
- A scribe
- Visually altered papers
- Use of a laptop for extended written exams.

All learners with additional SEND needs will be included on a detailed provision map which outlines and monitors all additional intervention across the campus. Each campus will hold their own provision map. The provision map enables the school to:

- Plan strategically to meet pupils' identified needs and track their provision.
- Audit how well provision matches need
- Recognise gaps in provision
- Highlight repetitive or ineffective use of resources
- Cost provision effectively
- Demonstrate accountability for financial efficiency
- Demonstrate to all staff how support is deployed
- Inform parents, LEA, external agencies and Ofsted about resource deployment
- Focus attention on whole-school issues of learning and teaching as well as individual needs, providing an important tool for self-evaluation.

Pupils with medical needs

- Pupils with medical needs will be provided with a detailed Health Care Plan, compiled in partnership with the school nurse and parents and if appropriate, the pupil themselves.
- Staff who volunteer to administer and supervise medications, will complete formal training and be verified by the school nurse as being competent.
- All medicine administration procedures adhere to the LA policy and Department of Education (DfE) guidelines included within *Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions* (DfE) 2014 and identified in the school Medicine Administration Policy.

Supporting pupils and families.

Partnership with parents plays a key role in enabling children and young people with SEND to achieve their potential. Elm Academy recognises that parents hold key information about their child's needs and how best we can support them. All parents of children with special educational needs will be treated as partners and encouraged to take an active role in their children's education. We also recognize that the young people themselves understand their own needs and we will support them to give their views about their education and how we can help them achieve these outcomes. They will be encouraged to participate in decision-making processes and contribute to the assessment of their needs through reviews.

What is the Bournemouth SEND and Disability Local Offer?

Bournemouth Borough Council is working with services to provide more comprehensive information on what each of these services specifically provide for children and young people with special educational needs (SEND) and disabilities. This offer will include provision from birth to 25, across education, health and social care.

Bournemouth's Local Offer and other information on the changes in SEND can be found at:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/ChildrenEducation/Special-Educational-Needs/SpecialEducationalNeeds.aspx>

Evaluation of success of the SEND Policy

The success of the Special Educational Needs Policy can be measured in the attainment achieved by the children with special educational needs. Children will be assessed through baseline data at induction, half-termly or termly monitoring, assessments, recording of progress and examination results.

It must also be recognised that some kinds of success, particularly personal, social and emotional are not easily measurable but it is important that they are acknowledged and recorded.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Key:

SEND – Special Education Needs and Disability

SENDCO – Special Educational Needs Coordinator

LEA – Local Education Authority

KS – Key Stage

CPD – Continuing Professional Development

EHCP – Education Health Care Plan

EHC – Education, Health & Care