



“All different, all equal, all achieving together”



SEND Policy

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Contents

1. Aims..... 3

OBJECTIVES 3

IDENTIFYING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS 3

2. Legislation and guidance 4

3. Definitions 4

4. Roles and responsibilities 5

5. SEN information report..... 6

6. Monitoring arrangements..... 12

7. Links with other policies and documents..... 12

1. Aims

Our SEN policy and information report aims to:

- Set out how our academy will support and make provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN)
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEN

The key aims within our special needs' provisions are:

- that our practice reflects the Learn@ Multi-Academy Trust's vision statement
- that all young people receive the provision set out in their Statement of Educational Need and/or their Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- to identify any changing needs in our young people
- to respond to changing needs with appropriate interventions in a timely manner to ensure that the young people can develop their potential as individuals
- to create a safe, secure learning environment where young people can make progress in a positive and happy atmosphere

OBJECTIVES

The key objectives within our special needs' provisions are to:

- ensure we communicate effectively with parents and carers and actively seek ways of helping and involving them in development and education of their child
- work within the guidance provided in the SEND Code of Practice, 2014, and The Children and Families Act, 2014.
- provide a relevant, broad and balanced curriculum that is tailored for all young people's individual special educational needs and additional needs
- provide a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo)
- raise the aspirations and expectations for all young people
- provide staff with up to date and relevant information on all the special needs of our young people
- provide staff with opportunities to discuss young people's needs
- advise and support staff, Academy Councillors and Trustees by providing opportunities and time for appropriate training and professional development
- provide a database within which information on young people can be collected, provided and processed, which is compliant with GDPR.
- act promptly when decisions are made about the support needed for an individual's special needs.

IDENTIFYING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

There are four broad areas of need and these categories are detailed in the SEND Code of Practice 2014. They are:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
- Sensory and/or physical needs

The needs of young people should be identified by considering all their, which will include not just their special educational needs of the pupil. This then allows us to personalise our educational offer to them.

The following may impact on progress and attainment but are not SEND:

- Disability (the SEND Code of Practice outlines the 'reasonable adjustment' duty for all settings and schools provided under current Disability Equality legislation – these alone do not constitute SEND)
- Attendance and Punctuality
- Health and Welfare
- EAL (English as an additional language)
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant
- Being a Looked After Child
- Being a child of a Serviceman/woman
- Behaviour

The needs of a pupil can and will change over time. It is the responsibility of all academy staff and additional agencies working with the pupil to respond to changing needs in order that the pupil may develop and meet their full potential.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy and information report is based on the statutory Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice and the following legislation:

- Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEN and disabilities
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, which set out schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN coordinators (SENCOs) and the SEN information report

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Definitions

A pupil has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability that calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

They have a learning difficulty or disability if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most of the others of the same age, or
- A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

4. Roles and responsibilities

Learn@ Multi-Academy Trust has links with and access to a range of multi-professional agencies that can provide support to parents, carers and young people. These include: educational psychologists, community paediatrician, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), speech and language therapist, Social Services, First Response, Educational Welfare Services, Behaviour Intervention Teams (BIT) and Family Intervention Teams (FIT). In addition to this, each provision has well trained, skilled staff who work closely with young people, their families and other agencies.

Family finance support and advice is offered to parents having trouble in managing their money through our specialist finance officer in each Academy.

Our Attendance officer provides families with advice on how to support academy attendance and access home to academy transport where applicable.

4.1 The SENCO

The SENCO is Rebecca Mullins.

They will:

- Work with the headteacher, academy council and trustees to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the academy
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEN policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to ensure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support
- Advise on the deployment of the academy's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- Be the point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to ensure that the academy meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 about reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Ensure the academy keeps the records of all pupils with SEN up to date

4.2 The trustees

The nominated trustee and academy council will:

- Help to raise awareness of SEN issues at academy council meetings
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEN and disability provision within the academy and update the academy council on this
- Work with the headteacher and SENCO to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the academy

4.3 The headteacher

The headteacher will:

- Work with the SENCO and trustees to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision within the academy
- Have overall responsibility for the provision and progress of learners with SEN and/or a disability

4.4 Class teachers

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- The progress and development of every pupil in their class
- Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- Working with the SENCO to review each pupil's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision
- Ensuring they follow this SEN policy

5. SEN information report

5.1 The kinds of SEN that are provided for does this need to be adapted in line with admissions policy?

Our academy currently provides additional and/or different provision for a range of needs, including:

- Communication and interaction, for example, autistic spectrum disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, speech and language difficulties
- Cognition and learning, for example, dyslexia, dyspraxia
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties, for example, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Sensory and/or physical needs, for example, visual impairments, hearing impairments, processing difficulties, epilepsy
- Moderate/severe/profound and multiple learning difficulties

5.2 Identifying pupils with SEN and assessing their needs

We will assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment on entry, which will build on previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. Class teachers will make regular assessments of progress for all pupils and identify those whose progress:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress
- Fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers
- Widens the attainment gap

This may include progress in areas other than attainment, for example, social needs.

Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a pupil is recorded as having SEN.

Our academy caters for a higher level of pupils with SEN than a mainstream setting. All our pupils are admitted with an EHCP in place. Our core offer can include several flexible adjustments to support pupils on entry whilst the school builds a more detailed picture of pupil needs. When deciding whether and what type of special educational provision is required, we will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the pupil and their parents. We will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether we can provide it by adapting our core offer, or whether something different or additional is needed.

5.3 Consulting and involving pupils and parents

We will have an early discussion with the pupil and their parents when identifying whether they need special educational provision beyond our core offer. These conversations will make sure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty
- We consider the parents' concerns
- Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child
- Everyone is clear on what the next steps are

Notes of these early discussions will be added to the pupil's record and given to their parents.

We will formally notify parents when it is decided that a pupil will receive SEN support beyond our core offer.

5.4 Assessing and reviewing pupils' progress towards outcomes

We will follow the graduated approach and the four-part cycle of **assess, plan, do, review**.

The class or subject teacher will work with the SENCO to carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. This will draw on:

- The teacher's assessment and experience of the pupil
- Their previous progress and attainment or behaviour
- Other teachers' assessments, where relevant
- The individual's development in comparison to their peers and national data
- The views and experience of parents
- The pupil's own views
- Advice from external support services, if relevant

The assessment will be reviewed regularly.

All teachers and support staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided, and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required. We will regularly review the effectiveness of the support and interventions, and their impact on the pupil's progress.

5.5 Supporting pupils moving between phases and preparing for adulthood

We will share information with the academy, college, or other setting the pupil is moving to. We will agree with parents and pupils which information will be shared as part of this.

Brook Academy will support pupils to transition to their next placement. This could be through visits to the new placement, supporting meetings with key adults/staff and support to complete relevant paperwork.

5.6 Our approach to teaching pupils with SEN

At Brook Academy, our approach to teaching pupils with SEN focuses on ensuring all pupils make progress relative to their starting points on entry to the school. We also place great emphasis on preparing for next steps and supporting pupils to become effective and contributing members of their community and wider society.

Our school caters exclusively for those with an EHCP which details the needs and outcomes for each pupil.

In addition to information gathered from their previous education placement, Brook Academy will undertake baseline assessments for all pupils on entry to determine current learning levels.

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all the pupils in their class.

High-quality teaching is our first step in responding to pupils who have SEN. This will be differentiated for individual pupils.

We may also provide the following interventions:

- 1:1 counselling on referral
- Music and sand tray therapy on referral
- Speech and Language Therapy on referral
- Occupational Therapy on referral

5.7 Adaptations to the curriculum and learning environment

As a special education provider our curriculum and learning environments are designed specifically to be flexible and adaptable enough to meet the varied needs of our cohort. We make the following adaptations to ensure all pupils' needs are met:

- Differentiating our curriculum to ensure all pupils can access it, for example, by grouping, 1:1 work, teaching style, content of the lesson, etc.
- Adapting our resources and staffing
- Using recommended aids, such as laptops, colored overlays, visual timetables, larger font, etc.
- Differentiating our teaching, for example, giving longer processing times, pre-teaching of key vocabulary, reading instructions aloud, etc.

5.8 Additional support for learning

We have designated and general teaching assistants who are trained to deliver interventions such as:

- Banish the Self-Esteem Thief
- Anger Gremlin
- Anxiety Gremlin
- Zones of Regulation
- Resilience
- Talk about for Teens
- Sensory Circuits
- Lego Therapy
- Read Write Inc: Fresh Start phonics

Teaching assistants will support pupils on a 1:1 basis as and when it is agreed with parents, school and the local authority.

Teaching assistants will support pupils in small groups when it is agreed with parents, school and the local authority.

We work with the following agencies to provide support for pupils with SEN:

- Education Psychology Service
- Social Services
- School nurse service
- Gloucestershire Young Carers
- Virtual School
- Be Safe
- CAMHS
- Teens in crisis

5.9 Expertise and training of staff

Our SEND team consists of a SENCO (Assistant Headteacher), a deputy SENCO (SLT) and a SEND administrator who all are very experienced in working with children who have SEN. They are allocated 5 inset days per year and weekly training in staff meeting time and manage our SEN provision.

We have a team of eight teaching assistants, including two higher level teaching assistants (HLTAs) who are trained to deliver SEN provision.

In the last academic year, staff have been trained in Team Teach and Zones of Regulation alongside the statutory and contextual safeguarding required to ensure they are equipped to support our

young people. We use specialist staff for the following interventions: music therapy, play therapy, counselling and boxing.

5.10 Securing equipment and facilities

Where possible equipment and environmental adjustments will be assessed and in place prior to any pupil starting at the academy. Where additional equipment is required to meet needs, this may be addressed at the annual review to ensure the EHCP (where relevant) stipulates this provision. The trust will always seek to meet any ongoing equipment or premises provision as quickly and effectively as possible where reasonable.

5.11 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- Reviewing pupils' individual progress towards their goals each term
- Reviewing the impact of interventions at least termly depending upon the nature of the intervention
- Using pupil questionnaires
- Monitoring by the SENCO
- Using provision maps to measure progress
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans

5.12 Enabling pupils with SEND to engage in activities available to all those in the academy

All our extra-curricular activities and academy visits are available to all our pupils, including our before-and after-school clubs.

All pupils are encouraged to take part in academy events and trips

No pupil is ever excluded from taking part in these activities because of their SEN or disability.

- Arrangements for the admission of disabled pupils
 - All pupils whose education, health and care (EHC) plans name the school will be admitted before any other places are allocated
- Our admissions process will never unfairly disadvantage a child because of their disability
- Our accessibility plan is available on request and published on the school's webpage this explains how we are:
 - Improving the physical environment to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of the education, benefits, facilities and services you provide
 - Improving the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

5.13 Support for improving emotional and social development

Explain your school's approach here. Include extra pastoral support arrangements for listening to the views of pupils with SEN and measures to prevent bullying.

We provide support for pupils to improve their emotional and social development in the following ways:

- Pupils with SEN are encouraged to be part of the academy council
- Pupils are supported with an appropriate curriculum to help understand other disabilities and challenges and promote not only tolerance but support of others
- Emotional literacy is taught across the curriculum
- Pupils are encouraged and supported to share their views on all aspects of Brook Academy school life
- Using visual incident narratives to support pupils' reflecting on own and others' behaviour and feelings
- All pupils have an individualized Behaviour Support Plan (BSP) that identifies their triggers, behaviours and strategies – all pupils contribute to the review of their BSP
- We have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying.

5.14 Working with other agencies

The academy engages with a range of other agencies to improve its support of pupils with disabilities and other needs. For example, the NSPCC, CAMHS, NAS, Virtual School, Gloucestershire Young Carers, School Nurse Service, Educational Psychology Service, Speech and Language Therapy, Social Services, Barnados and Aspire. Relevant Brook Academy staff will attend multi-agency meetings concerning individual pupils' safeguarding and attendance needs, their progress and any changes or concerns in order that they can be addressed, and action taken where necessary.

5.15 Complaints about SEN provision

Complaints about SEN provision in our academy should be made to the SENCO in the first instance. They will then be referred to the academy's complaints policy.

The parents of pupils with disabilities have the right to make disability discrimination claims to the first-tier SEND tribunal if they believe that our academy has discriminated against their children. They can make a claim about alleged discrimination regarding:

- Exclusions
- Provision of education and associated services
- Making reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services

5.16 Contact details of support services for parents of pupils with SEN

We have a family support worker, Sally Dawson, who works closely Parents carer forum, SENDIAS and GCC to ensure parents have enough support to support their pupils.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKGLOUCESTERSHIRE/bulletins/33c66f0>

5.17 Contact details for raising concerns

Interim Deputy Headteacher: Zoe Jenkins

Interim Assistant Headteacher and SENCO: Rebecca Mullins

SEND Policy – v1

5.18 The local authority local offer

Our local authority's local offer is published here: https://www.glofamiliedirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glofamiliedirectory/family.page?familychannel=2_2_1

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy and information report will be reviewed by the trust **every year**. It will also be updated if any changes to the information are made during the year.

It will be approved by the academy council and board of trustees.

7. Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to the following documents:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Accessibility plan

Select the groups that this policy needs to be distributed to:

Group	Please select
Academy Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administrators	<input type="checkbox"/>
Admissions	<input type="checkbox"/>
All staff - support	<input type="checkbox"/>
All staff - teachers	<input type="checkbox"/>
All staff across academies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board of Trustees	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Holders	<input type="checkbox"/>
Central Executive Team	<input type="checkbox"/>
Central Team	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clerk to Academy Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clerk to Board of Trustees	<input type="checkbox"/>
Credit Card Holders	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finance Team	<input type="checkbox"/>
Headteachers/ Head of Provision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Line Managers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Members	<input type="checkbox"/>
Premises Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recruitment	<input type="checkbox"/>
SENDCo	<input type="checkbox"/>