



RISE EDUCATION

# Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

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## 1. Aims and objectives

As an independent school for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND, this) policy aims to:

- Make sure our school fully implements national legislation and guidance regarding students with SEND
- Set out how our school will:
  - Support and make provision for students with special educational needs and disabilities
  - Provide students with SEND access to all aspects of school life
  - Help students with SEND fulfil their aspirations and achieve their best
  - Help students with SEND become confident individuals living fulfilling lives
  - Help students with SEND make a successful transition into adulthood
  - Communicate with students with SEND and their parents or carers and involve them in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the student
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for students with SEND
- Communicate with, and involve, students with SEND and their parents or carers in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the student
- Make sure the SEND policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff

## 2. Vision and values

At our school we will provide all students with access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

We are committed to making sure all our students have the chance to thrive and supporting them to meet their full potential.

We are focused on creating an inclusive environment, where provision is tailored to the needs and abilities of students, no matter how varied.

## 3. Legislation and guidance

This 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 students with SEND
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN co-ordinators (SENCOs) and the special educational needs (SEN) information report
- The Equality Act 2010 (section 20), which sets out the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes having a disability) and those who don't share it
- The Governance Handbook, which sets out governors' responsibilities for students with SEND
- The School Admissions Code, which sets out the school's obligation to admit all students whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and its duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special educational needs

## 4. Inclusion and equal opportunities

At our school we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all students, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced and personalised curriculum. We are committed to offering all students the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations.

We will achieve this by making reasonable adjustments to teaching, the curriculum and the school environment to make sure that students with SEND are included in all aspects of school life.

## 5. Definitions

### 5.1 Special educational needs

A student has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires 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 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.

### 5.2 Disability

Students are considered to have a **disability** if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

The school will make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

### 5.3 The 4 areas of need

The needs of students with SEND are grouped into 4 broad areas. Students can have needs that cut across more than 1 area, and their needs may change over time.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the student's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	Students with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or do not understand or use the social rules of communication.  Students who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.

AREA OF NEED	
Cognition and learning	<p>Students with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers. A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific learning difficulties, which impact 1 or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia</li> <li>• Moderate learning difficulties</li> <li>• Severe learning difficulties</li> <li>• Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where students are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment</li> </ul>
Social, emotional and mental health	<p>These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Students may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder</li> <li>• Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder</li> <li>• Suffered adverse childhood experiences</li> </ul> <p>These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the student becoming withdrawn or isolated.</p>
Sensory and/or physical	<p>Students with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided.</p> <p>Students may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment</li> <li>• A physical impairment</li> </ul> <p>These students may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.</p>

## 6. Roles and responsibilities

### 6.1 The SENCO

The SENCO at our school is Rena Johnson

They will:

- Liaise with parents/carers about the student's needs and any provision made
- Work with the headteacher and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual students with SEN, including those who have EHC plans

- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that students with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual students
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet students' needs effectively
- Be a point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to ensure that appropriate provision is provided
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to make sure that the student and their parents are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned
- When a student moves to a different school or institution: Make sure that all relevant information about a student's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution in a timely manner
- Work with the headteacher and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Make sure the school keeps its records of all students with SEND up to date and accurate
- With the headteacher, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- With the headteacher, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy
- With the headteacher and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

## 6.2 The governing board

The governing board is responsible for making sure the following duties are carried out, though the duties can be delegated to a committee or an individual:

- Co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and developing the local offer
- Do all it can to make sure that every student with SEND gets the support they need
- Make sure that students with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside students who don't have SEND
- Inform parents when the school is making special educational provision for their child
- Make sure that the school has arrangements in place to support any students with medical conditions
- Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- Have a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND
- Provide an annual report for parents on their child's progress
- Record accurately and keep up to date the provision made for students with SEND
- Publish information on the school website about how the school is implementing its SEND policy, in a SEN information report
- Publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and the school's accessibility plans

- › Make sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENCO for the school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out, and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out
- › Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of students with SEND
- › Make sure that all students from year 8 until year 13 are provided with independent careers advice

### **6.3 The SEND link governor**

The SEND link governor is Yinka Afuwape.

The SEND governor will:

- › Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at governing board meetings
- › Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within the school and update the governing board on this
- › Work with the headteacher and SENCO to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school

### **6.4 The headteacher**

The headteacher will:

- › Work with the SENCO and SEND link governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school
- › Work with the SENCO and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- › Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for students with SEND, and their progress
- › Have responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEND budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual students
- › Make sure that the SENCO has enough time to carry out their duties
- › Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of students on the SEND register
- › Advise the LA when a student needs an EHC needs assessment, or when an EHC plan needs an early review
- › With the SENCO, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- › With the SENCO, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- › With the SENCO and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

### **6.5 Class teachers**

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- › Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is adapted to meet student needs through a graduated approach
- › The progress and development of every student in their class
- › Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- › Working with the SENCO to review each student's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision

- › Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report
- › Communicating with parents regularly to:
  - Set clear outcomes and review progress towards them
  - Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set outcomes
  - Identify the responsibilities of the parent, the student and the school
  - Listen to the parents' concerns and agree their aspirations for the student

## 6.6 Parents or carers

Parents or carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development.

Parents or carers of a student on the SEND register will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about the student's SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. They will be:

- › Invited to termly meetings to review the provision that is in place for their child
- › Asked to provide information about the impact of SEN support outside school and any changes in the student's needs
- › Given the opportunity to share their concerns and, with school staff, agree their aspirations for the student
- › Given an annual report on the student's progress

The school will take into account the views of the parent or carer in any decisions made about the student.

## 6.7 The student

Students will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. This might involve the student:

- › Explaining what their strengths and difficulties are
- › Contributing to setting targets or outcomes
- › Attending review meetings
- › Giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions

The student's views will be taken into account in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.

## 7. SEN information report

The school publishes a SEN information report on its website, which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school. The information report will be updated annually and as soon as possible after any changes to the information it contains.

## 8. Our approach to SEND support

### 8.1 Identifying student needs with SEND

Students who attend our school, will have an EHCP or are going through the needs assessment process. We will assess each student's current skills and levels of attainment when they start at the school. This will build on information from previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate.

Class teachers will regularly assess the progress of all students and identify any whose progress:

- › Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline



- › Fails to match or better their previous rate of progress
- › Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers
- › Widens the attainment gap

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

When teachers identify an area where a student is making slow progress, they will target the student's area of weakness with adaptive high-quality teaching. If progress does not improve, the teacher will raise the issue with the SENCO to have an initial discussion about how to best meet the students needs. Where necessary they will, in consultation with the student's parents or carers, consider consulting an external specialist.

When deciding what type of intervention is needed, we will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the student 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.

If a student is joining the school, and:

- › Their previous setting has already identified that they have SEN
- › They are known to external agencies
- › They have an education, health and care plan (EHCP)

then the school will work in a multi-agency way to make sure we get relevant information before the student starts at school, so support can be put in place as early as possible.

## **8.2 Consulting and involving students and parents**

The school will put the student and their parents at the heart of all decisions made about special educational provision. When we are aiming to identify whether a student needs special education provision, we will have an early discussion with the student and their parents. These conversations will make sure that:

- › Everyone develops a good understanding of the student's areas of strength and difficulty
- › We take into account any concerns the parents have
- › 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 student's record and develop or update the student SEND profile. We will formally notify parents if it is decided that a student will receive special educational provision.

## **8.3 The graduated approach to SEN support**

We will take action to remove any barriers to learning, and put effective special educational provision in place. This support will be delivered through successive rounds of a 4-part cycle known as the graduated approach.

### **1. Assess**

The student's class teacher and the SENCO will carry out a clear analysis of the student's needs. The views of the student and their parents will be taken into account. The school may also seek advice from external support services.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly to help make sure that the support in place is matched to the student's need. For many students, the most reliable way to identify needs is to observe the way they respond to an intervention.

### **2. Plan**

In consultation with the parents and the student, the teacher and the SENCO will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review.

All staff who work with the student will be made aware of the student's needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are needed. This information will be

recorded on Arbor, our management information system, and will be made accessible to staff in a student profile, and an individual education plan.

Parents will be fully aware of the planned support and interventions, and may be asked to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

### **3. Do**

The student's class or subject teacher retains overall responsibility for their progress.

Where the plan involves group or 1-to-1 teaching away from the main class or subject teacher, they still retain responsibility for the student. They will work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.

The SENCO will support the teacher in further assessing the student's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on how to implement support effectively.

### **4. Review**

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the student's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

We will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. This evaluation will be based on:

- The views of the parents and students
- The level of progress the student has made towards their outcomes
- The views of teaching staff who work with the student

The teacher and the SENCO will revise the outcomes and support in light of the student's progress and development, and in consultation with the student and their parents.

## **8.4 Levels of support**

### **School-based SEN provision**

All students are on the school's SEND register. These students have needs that can be met by the school through the graduated approach. Where the student's needs cannot be adequately met with in-house expertise, staff will consider involving an external specialist as soon as possible.

Any student who does not yet have an EHCP, will be marked as K, the SEND register.

### **Education, health and care (EHC) plan**

The plan is a legal document that describes the needs of the student, the provision that will be put in place, and the outcomes sought. The provision for these students will be funded by local authorities. These students will be marked with the code E.

## **8.5 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision**

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

- › Tracking students' progress, including by using provision maps
- › Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support
- › Using student questionnaires
- › Monitoring by the SENCO
- › Holding annual reviews for students with EHC plans
- › Getting feedback from the student and their parents

## **9. Expertise and training of staff**

Training will regularly be provided to teaching and support staff. The headteacher and the SENCO will continuously monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development. CPD takes place twice a week and the SENDco also runs a SEND clinic for all staff to attend.

## **10. Links with external professional agencies**

The school recognises that it won't be able to meet all the needs of every student. Whenever necessary the school will work with external support services such as:

- Speech and language therapists
- Specialist teachers or support services
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- General practitioners or paediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Education welfare officers
- Social services

## **11. Admission and accessibility arrangements**

### **11.1 Admission arrangements**

The school will admit a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan subject to the wishes of their parent unless this is incompatible with the efficient education of other children, and there are no reasonable steps, which can be taken to prevent the incompatibility.

All SEND paperwork should be passed to the SENDco by the previous school or setting/parents as soon as possible. If the student is making a transition from another school, a meeting may be set up between key staff from both settings, parents and external agencies where necessary to aid the smooth transition of the students, and discuss arrangements to be made as well as any other important information relating to that child's needs.

Where face to face meetings are not possible, contact will be made using the telephone or Microsoft Teams to ensure that there is a good understanding of what type of provision is required. The School will ensure that the necessary provisions and preparations are made prior (where possible) to the start of the student's school year. The student will be closely monitored from the start of the new school year to ensure that all the appropriate provisions are in place.

### **11.2 Accessibility arrangements**

At Rise, we are committed to ensuring that every student has equal access to a high-quality education, regardless of any physical, sensory, cognitive, or other barriers they may face. Our school provides a supportive and inclusive environment with reasonable adjustments made to accommodate the needs of all students.

We offer a range of resources and support services, including assistive technologies, tailored learning plans, and staff training, to ensure that every student can fully participate in and benefit from our educational offerings. We continuously review and improve our practices to uphold the principles of accessibility and inclusivity.

Through our school philosophy and culture, we have implemented several measures to ensure that no student is treated less favourably. We provide personalised learning plans and make necessary adjustments to the curriculum to cater to diverse learning needs.

Our resources, including textbooks and digital materials, are available in accessible formats such as large print and audio. Additionally, we train our staff regularly on inclusive teaching practices and maintain an open dialogue with students and parents to address any concerns promptly. By doing so, we strive to create an equitable learning environment where every student can thrive.

## 12. Complaints about SEND provision

Where parents have concerns about our school's SEND provision, they should first raise their concerns informally with the SENCO. We will try to resolve the complaint informally in the first instance. If this does not resolve their concerns, parents are welcome to submit their complaint formally.

Formal complaints about SEND provision in our school should be made to the headteacher in the first instance. They will be handled in line with the school's complaints policy, which is available on the school's website.

If the parent or carer is not satisfied with the school's response, they can escalate the complaint. In some circumstances, this right also applies to the student themselves.

To see a full explanation of suitable avenues for complaint, see pages 246 and 247 of the [SEN Code of Practice](#).

To find out about disagreement resolution and mediation services in our local area, please contact your local authorities' disagreement resolution and mediation services.

## 13. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

### 13.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND policy. We will do this by evaluating whether or not we are meeting our objectives set out in section 1. We will evaluate how effective our SEND provision is with regards to:

- › All staff's awareness of students with SEND each term
- › How early students are identified as having SEND
- › Students' progress and attainment once they have been identified as having SEND
- › Whether students with SEND feel safe, valued and included in the school community
- › Comments and feedback from students and their parents

### 13.2 Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by the headteacher every **year**. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year. It will be approved by the full governing board.

## 14. Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to the following documents:

- › SEN information report
- › The local offer

- Accessibility plan
- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Supporting students with medical conditions policy
- Attendance policy
- Safeguarding / child protection policy
- Complaints policy