

Mercia School

Special Educational Needs Information Report



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This policy has been approved by the Local Governing Body and has been signed by the Chair of Governors	
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SEND Information

Report

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Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.



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1. What kinds of special educational needs do we provide for at Mercia?

We are an 11-18 non-selective school in Sheffield. We believe that all children, regardless of need, can be successful academically if they are provided with adequate support. We cater for pupils with a range of special educational needs including (but not limited to) those identified as having:

- MLD (Moderate Learning Difficulties)
- SpLCD (Speech, Language and Communication Difficulties)
- BESD (Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties)
- ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorders)
- Dyslexia
- ADHD
- Sensory and/or physical needs, for example, visual impairments, hearing impairments, processing difficulties, epilepsy

2. Identifying pupils with SEN and assessing their needs.

Pupils are identified through transition, testing on entry, regular assessments and parent and teacher referrals.

Pupils who are below expected level in any subject including English and mathematics are not automatically identified as have SEN; but are provided with the teaching they need to make the progress required. It is only after a persistent problem that requires significant support that a child may be said to have a SEN.

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

When deciding whether special educational provision is required, we will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views of the pupil and their parents. We will use this to determine the support that is needed.

The school has a SEN register that is updated regularly. The highest need students are identified as school support so appearing as a K on school registers.

All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, and the support provided. We will regularly review the effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress.

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. These conversations will make sure that:

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

Parents and pupils are consulted regarding individual learning plans. Progress of pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan is monitored by the SENCO, who reviews progress in consultation with parents on a regular basis.



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4. Assessing pupils' progress

We place a strong emphasis on 100% of pupils reading at their chronological age. Equally, we strive for pupils to master subject content.

Our system of support is orientated around these objectives. Every intervention that we make will help to ensure that every child meets these standards. It is our belief that if children achieve these objectives that they will have the skills and knowledge they need to compete with their peers within school and beyond.

5. Supporting pupils moving between phases and preparing for adulthood

We will share information with the school, 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.

6. Reviewing pupils' progress

We assess and monitor progress towards achieving our objectives. We use literacy testing, annual nationally standardised testing (progress in English and mathematics), multiple-choice testing/quizzes, mid cycle assessment and end of cycle summative assessment.

The results from our assessments inform teaching and learning strategies, grouping and intervention. Baseline assessments and annual assessments inform pupil grouping and differentiation.

Teachers regularly update the Accelerated Learning Lead on qualitative aspects of learning, such as focus in class, quality of written accuracy, quality of responses to questioning, behaviour, emotional state, and motivation. This information is used to determine whether pupils require additional support in any of these areas.

7. Our approach to teaching pupils with SEN

Our approach to teaching is underpinned by research into cognitive science and pedagogy that maximises progress. Teachers prioritise memorisation and practice in lessons. Pupils with SEN benefit from these approaches, as the structured setting, clear explanations and carefully sequenced sets of examples aid understanding. Furthermore, pupils with SEN benefit from extended practice as this supports retention of subject content.

Quality first teaching is our first step in responding to pupils who have SEN. Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all the pupils in their class. We will provide appropriate and timely interventions to support the learning and wellbeing of pupils we identify.

8. Adaptations to the curriculum and learning environment

Pupils identified requiring additional support during baseline testing are placed in our bottom sets for Maths and Science in year 7. These pupils receive the same curriculum content as those in the other sets, but teachers build in more time for practice and consolidation to support memorisation. Other subject lessons are mixed ability. If pupils fail to master content in weekly tests, they receive additional support in Mastery time and self-study sessions.



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9. Additional support for learning

Meeting the needs of pupils with SEN is a whole school responsibility and priority. Teachers have been trained to understand the needs of every pupil and to systematically and thoroughly review the progress each pupil is making during lessons and over time.

The Accelerated Learning Lead, Headteacher, and governing body review and monitor progress of pupils with SEN. The Accelerated Learning Lead oversees the implementation of tailored interventions.

Where necessary, individual learning plans are created for pupils in need of the highest levels of support. These are created in consultation with parents and pupils and are tailored to individual pupils' needs.

Interventions will take place during Mastery Time, self-study sessions and other non-lesson time. Pupils will not be taken out of core curriculum lessons. However, those requiring support from external providers such as, Educational Psychologist and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) may be taken out of lesson, if the appointment cannot be avoided.

10. Expertise and training of staff

The school has a commitment to ongoing CPD for all staff, including continual training around SEN that meets our pupil needs. See our CPD policy for more guidance.

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 regularly;
- Pupil/staff/parent voice;
- Monitoring by the SENCO/Accelerated Learning Lead;
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with statements of SEN or EHC plans.

12. Enabling pupils with SEN to engage in activities available to those in the school who do not have SEND

- All of our extra-curricular activities and school visits are available to all our pupils, including our before-and after-school clubs.
- All pupils are encouraged to go on our residential trip(s), wherever the destination.
- All pupils are encouraged to take part in sports day/school plays/special workshops, and will be supported to do so
- No pupil is ever excluded from taking part in these activities because of their SEN or disability.

13. Support for improving emotional and social development

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 school council;
- Pupils with SEN are also encouraged to be part of all clubs to promote teamwork/building friendships etc;
- All SEN are active members of a House.

We have a zero tolerance approach to bullying.



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14. Working with other agencies

The school works closely with necessary external agencies. The SENCO will refer/support referrals to external agencies if deemed necessary.

All EHCP annual reviews will be sent to the local authority according to the SEN code of practice.

15. Accessibility

The school has two lifts and disabled toilet facilities.

16. Monitoring arrangements

This information report will be reviewed by the SENCO every year. It will also be updated if any changes to the information are made during the year. It will be approved by the governing board.

17. Complaints about SEN

Complaints about SEN provision in our school should be made to the Headteacher in the first instance. They will then be referred to the school'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 school 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.

18. Responsible Persons

Headteacher: Mr DF Webster

SENCO: Mrs J Stevenson

Accelerated Learning Lead: Miss D Harvey

Governor: Mrs R Dodds

19. Further Information

- Information about Sheffield Council's strategy for pupils with SEND can be found here: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/children-specialist-educational-needs.html>
- The Sheffield Local Offer can be found here: <http://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/kb5/sheffield/directory/advice.page?id=jBd7MDpgUml>
- Mercia SEN Policy