



Highsted Grammar School

Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY POLICY

This policy is written in line with the requirements of:-

Children and Families Act 2014

SEN Code of Practice 2014

SI 2014 1530 Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014.

Part 3 Duties on Schools – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators.

Schedule 1 regulation 51– Information to be included in the SEN information report.

Schedule 2 regulation 53 – Information to be published by a local authority in its local offer.

Equality Act 2010

Schools Admissions Code, DfE 1 Feb 2012

SI 2012 1124 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.

SI 2013 758 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.

Highsted Grammar School's Special Educational Needs and Disability policy is developed with the input of staff, students, parents and governors through interviews and questionnaires and will be reviewed annually.

Definition of SEN

A child or young person has Special Educational Needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty if he or she:

- a) Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- b) Has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions? *SEN Code of Practice (2014, p4)*

Definition of disability

Many children and young people who have SEN may also 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'. This definition provides a relatively low threshold and includes more children than many realise: 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial' *SEN Code of Practice (2014, p5)*

1 The kinds of special educational need for which provision is made at the school

At Highsted Grammar School we can make provision for every kind of frequently occurring special educational need without a Statement of Special Educational Needs / Education, Health and Care Plan, for instance dyslexia, dyspraxia, speech and language needs, autism, Asperger's syndrome, learning difficulties and behaviour difficulties. There are other kinds of



special educational need which do not occur as frequently and with which the school is less familiar, but we can access training and advice so that these kinds of needs can be met.

The school also currently meets the needs of a pupil with a Statement of Special Educational Need / Education, Health and Care plan as result of Asperger's Syndrome. Decisions on the admission of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need / Education, Health and Care plan are made by the Local Authority.

The admission arrangements for pupils without a Statement of Special Educational Needs / Education, Health and Care Plan do not discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with special educational needs.

2 Information about the policy for identification and assessment of pupils with Special Educational Needs

At Highsted Grammar School we monitor the progress of all pupils on an ongoing basis to review their academic progress, issuing progress reports at regular intervals throughout the academic year.

Where progress is not sufficient, even if special educational need has not been identified, we put in place extra support to enable the pupil to catch up. Examples of extra support are one-to-one or small group support sessions or alternative study resources.

Some pupils may continue to make inadequate progress, despite high-quality teaching targeted at their areas of weakness. For these pupils, and in consultation with parents, we will use a range of assessment tools to determine the cause of the learning difficulty. At Highsted Grammar School we are experienced in using the following assessment tools: Wide Range Achievement Test 4 (WRAT 4), Dyslexia Screening Test Secondary (DST-S) and Lucid Exact (an assessment tool for examination access arrangements). We also have access to external advisors should further, specialised assessments be required.

The purpose of this more detailed assessment is to understand what additional resources and different approaches are required to enable the pupil to make better progress. These will be shared with parents and incorporated within a SEN support plan, called a 'Pupil Passport'. This document will focus on the student stating their needs in their own words, in addition to what teachers can do to help them. The Pupil Passport will be reviewed regularly, and refined/revised if necessary. At this point we will have identified that the pupil has a special educational need because the school is making special educational provision for the pupil which is additional and different to what is normally available.

If the pupil is able to make good progress using this additional and different resource (but would not be able to maintain this good progress without it) we will continue to identify the pupil as having a special educational need. If the pupil is able to maintain good progress without the additional and different resources, he or she will not be identified with special educational needs. When any change in identification of SEN is made parents will be notified.



We will ensure that all teachers and support staff who work with the pupil are aware of the support to be provided and the teaching approaches to be used.

In addition to our own monitoring of students we will also take into consideration information from other sources regarding potential special educational needs; this may include medical or psychological assessments, reports from their previous school and information from the student's parents.

3 Information about the school's policies for making provision for pupils with special educational needs whether or not they have EHC Plans, including:

3a How the school evaluates the effectiveness of its provision for such pupils

Each review of the SEN support plan will be informed by the views of the pupil, parents and class/subject teachers and the assessment information from teachers, which will show whether adequate progress is being made.

The *SEN Code of Practice (2014, 6.17)* describes inadequate progress thus:

- 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 rate of progress
- widens the attainment gap

For pupils with or without a Statement of Special Educational Needs / Education, Health and Care Plan there will be an annual review of the provision made for the child, which will enable an evaluation of the effectiveness of the special provision. The collation of all annual review evaluations of effectiveness will be reported to the governing body.

3b The school's arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of pupils with special educational needs

Every pupil in the school has their progress reported via a grade sheet at regular intervals throughout the academic year. In addition to this, pupils with special educational needs may have more frequent assessments of reading age, spelling age etc. The assessments we use at Highsted Grammar School are listed in section 2. Using these it will be possible to see if pupils are increasing their level of skills in key areas.

If these assessments do not show adequate progress is being made, the SEN support plan will be reviewed and adjusted.

On occasions alternative measures of progress may be required, such as in relation to social integration. In such instances judgements will be made by the school's pastoral team (e.g. Head of House or Form Tutor).

3c The school's approach to teaching pupils with special educational needs

High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching. Schools should regularly and carefully review the quality

of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEN most frequently encountered *SEN Code of Practice (2014, 6.37)*.

At Highsted Grammar School the quality of teaching is judged to be outstanding.

We follow the Mainstream Core Standards advice developed by Kent County Council to ensure that our teaching conforms to best practice.

In meeting the Mainstream Core Standards the school employs some additional teaching approaches, as advised by internal and external assessments, for example one-to-one tutoring sessions or the provision of in-class Learning Support Assistants. These are delivered by additional staff employed through the funding provided to the school as 'notional SEN funding'.

3d How the school adapts the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with special educational needs

At Highsted Grammar School we follow the advice in the Mainstream Core Standards on how to adapt the curriculum and the learning environment for pupils with special educational needs. We also incorporate the advice provided as a result of assessments, both internal and external, and the strategies described in Statements of Special Educational Needs / Education, Health and Care Plans.

As part of our requirement to keep the appropriateness of our curriculum and learning environment under review, the Governors have made various improvements as part of the school's accessibility planning, including the opening of the one-to-one tuition suite which caters for students with a range of needs and improvements to lifts and ramps within the school for students with mobility issues.

In addition to physical aspects of the school, the importance of providing a positive learning environment for students with special educational needs is paramount, with staff receiving clear guidance on how to ensure that each student feels comfortable and included within all aspects of school life. For example, some students may require additional support when required to work as part of a group and staff will be aware of this.

In instances where access arrangements are required to allow SEN students to access examinations, such arrangements will be put into place by the Examinations Officer under the instruction and guidance of the SEND Manager. Any adjustments are made in accordance with the requirements set out by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and the examination boards and specific requirements must be met to allow any access arrangement to be facilitated. It is important that such arrangements reflect the student's normal way of working in lessons (e.g. additional time, use of a laptop); arrangements are therefore put into place across all applicable subjects at the earliest opportunity so that the impact and appropriateness of the measure can be assessed and documented as supporting evidence.

3e Additional support for learning that is available to pupils with special educational needs

As part of our budget we receive 'notional SEN funding'. This funding is used to ensure that the quality of teaching is outstanding in the school and that there are sufficient resources to deploy additional and different teaching for pupils requiring SEN support. The amount of support required for each pupil to make good progress will be different in each case. In very few cases a very high level of resource is required. The funding arrangements require schools to provide up to £6000 per year of resource for pupils with high needs, and above that amount the Local Authority should provide top-up to the school (KCC's Schools Funding Forum is currently developing a system for this which will be implemented in April 2015).

Any students who currently have a Statement of Special Educational Needs will see these replaced with a new Education and Health Care Plan. New applications for Education and Health Care Plans will be made in instances where a pupil is deemed to have special educational needs that extend beyond the standard resources available. Such assessments will be made collaboratively by the school, the pupil and their parents/carers.

3f How the school enables pupils with special educational needs to engage in activities of the school (including physical activities) together with children who do not have special educational needs

All clubs, trips and activities offered to pupils at Highsted Grammar School are available to pupils with special educational needs either with or without a Statement of Special Educational Needs / Education, Health and Care Plan. Where it is necessary, the school will use the resources available to it to provide additional adult support to enable the safe participation of the pupil in the activity.

3g Support that is available for improving the emotional and social development of pupils with special educational needs

At Highsted Grammar School we understand that an important feature of the school is to enable all pupils to develop emotional resilience and social skills, both through direct teaching, for instance through PSHCEE focus days and indirectly with every conversation adults have with pupils throughout the day.

For some pupils with the most need for help in this area we also can provide the following: mentor time with an appropriate member of staff, the use of the tuition suite as a quiet space for individual or one-to-one work, access to the school nurse and referrals to external agencies for support such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Pupils in the early stages of emotional and social development because of their special educational needs will be supported to enable them to develop and mature appropriately. This will usually require additional and different resources, beyond that required by pupils who do not need this support.



4 The name and contact details of the SEND Manager

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Manager at Highsted Grammar School is Jonathon Webb, who is a qualified teacher and holds the following qualifications:

BSc (Hons) Psychology

Certificate of Competence in Educational Testing (CCET) and is undertaking the National Award for SEN Co-ordination.

Jonathon Webb is available on 01795 424223 or admin@highsted.kent.sch.uk.

5 Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and how specialist expertise will be secured

All teachers and teaching assistants have had awareness training in supporting students with special educational needs, including Autistic Spectrum Disorders and issues relating to cognition and learning.

Where a training need is identified beyond this we will find a provider who is able to deliver it. The cost of training is covered by the notional SEN funding.

6 Information about how equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs will be secured

Where external advisors recommend the use of equipment or facilities which the school does not have, we will purchase it using the notional SEN funding, or seek it by loan. For highly specialist communication equipment the school will seek the advice of the KCC Communication and Assistive Technology team.

7 The arrangements for consulting parents of children with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education

All parents of pupils at Highsted Grammar School are invited to discuss the progress of their children at parents' evening once a year and receive grade sheets at regular intervals. In addition we are happy to arrange meetings outside these times. As part of our normal teaching arrangements, all pupils will access some additional teaching to help them catch-up if the progress monitoring indicates that this is necessary; this will not imply that the pupil has a special educational need.

If following this normal provision improvements in progress are not seen, we will contact parents to discuss the use of internal or external assessments which will help us to address these needs better. From this point onwards the pupil will be identified as having special educational needs because special educational provision is being made and the parent will be invited to all planning and reviews of this provision. Parents will be actively supported to contribute to assessment, planning and review.

In addition to this, parents of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs / Education, Health and Care Plan will be invited to contribute to and attend an annual review,

which, wherever possible will also include other agencies involved with the pupil. Information will be made accessible for parents. However, as with all students with Special Educational Needs, regular communication throughout the year will be encouraged to review the student's progress and make adjustments to provision where necessary.

8 The arrangements for consulting young people with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education

When a pupil has been identified to have special educational needs because special educational provision is being made for him or her, the pupil will be consulted about and involved in the arrangements made for them as part of person-centred planning. Parents are likely to play a more significant role in the childhood years with the young person taking more responsibility and acting with greater independence in later years. The Pupil Passport focuses on the student's views, allowing them to express their needs in their own words.

9 The arrangements made by the governing body relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school

The normal arrangements for the treatment of complaints at Highsted Grammar School are used for complaints about provision made for special educational needs. We encourage parents to discuss their concerns with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Manager to resolve the issue before making the complaint formal to the Chair of the governing body.

If the complaint is not resolved after it has been considered by the governing body, then a disagreement resolution service or mediation service can be contacted. If it remains unresolved after this, the complainant can appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), if the case refers to disability discrimination, or to the Secretary of State for all other cases.

There are some circumstances, usually for children who have a Statement of Special Educational Need, where there is a statutory right for parents to appeal against a decision of the Local Authority. Complaints which fall within this category cannot be investigated by the school.

10 How the governing body involves other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and in supporting the families of such pupils

The governing body have engaged with the following bodies:-

- Free Membership of Local Inclusion Forum Teams (LIFT) for access to specialist teaching and learning service.
- Referral to Early Help and Preventative Services via the Kent Family Support Framework.



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- Direct referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
 - Young Healthy Minds.
 - Medway Community Healthcare.
 - Children's Social Services.
 - Specialist Teaching Services.

Member of Staff/Governor Responsible:

AEN Manager: Jonathon Webb
SEN Governor: Robert Jepson

Policy Date: January 2002
Reviewed and updated: July 2013

Reviewed and Updated: February 2015