



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS and DISABILITY (SEND) POLICY

September 2018

Responsibility	SENCO/Deputy SENDCO
Date of last review	September 2018
Date of next review	September 2019

Signed:

Signed:

Chair of Governors

Headteacher

Date:

Date:

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS and DISABILITY (SEND) POLICY

Responsibility: Sakander Zaib, Deputy SENDCO
National Award for SEN Coordination

Compliance:

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice 0-25 (January 2015) and has been written with reference to the following guidance documents:

- Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations and applies to England
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- The Special Educational Needs (Personal Budgets) Regulations 2014
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Detained Persons) Regulations 2015
- The Children and Families Act 2014 (Transitional and Saving Provisions)(No 2) Order 2014
- Articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Equality Act 2010

Introduction

The Aspire Academy endeavours to empower pupils to achieve the best they are capable of and aim to achieve this through mutually beneficial partnerships with schools, parents and carers, other agencies and providers. All members of staff, in conjunction with the Governing Body have a responsibility to ensure that every pupil has an equal opportunity to attain their maximum potential in all aspects of their learning. Pupils are entitled to a broad and balanced learning experience, including Personalised Provision and their relative progress will be recorded, valued and reviewed. We recognise that every teacher is a teacher of every child or young person including those with special educational needs or a disability and through this belief we are able to provide pupils with a broad and balanced learning experience tailored to their individual needs.

1. Aims of the Policy

This policy sets out the principles and procedures for the education of pupils with special educational needs at The Aspire Academy. The Aspire Academy aims to engender a sense of community and belonging, and to offer new opportunities to learners who may have experienced previous difficulties. The Aspire Academy is committed to inclusion and responding to all the needs of its pupils by providing an appropriate and high quality education for all the young people it serves. Accordingly, provision for pupils with special educational needs will be based on the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice : 0 to 25 years January 2015 and will involve all members of staff.

We believe that all young people, including those identified as having special educational needs have a common entitlement to a broad and balanced academic and social curriculum, helping to equip them for adult life. The Aspire Academy will:

- Work within the guidance provided within the SEND Code of Practice, January 2015;

- Make appropriate adjustments for those with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND) by taking action to ensure access to all areas of the learning experience thereby allowing them to achieve their full potential and enjoy their learning;
- Ensure that children and young people with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEND enabling them to be fully included in all aspects of school life;
- Raise the aspirations of and expectations for all pupils including those with SEND;
- Request, monitor and respond to parent/carers' and pupils' views in order to evidence high levels of confidence and partnership;
- Operate a 'whole pupil, whole school' approach to the management and provision of support for special educational needs;
- Provide a Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDCo) who will work in accordance with the SEND Inclusion Policy;
- Provide support and advise for all staff working with special educational needs pupils, thereby ensuring a high level of staff expertise to meet pupil need, through well targeted continuing professional development;
- Support pupils with medical conditions to achieve full inclusion in all school activities by ensuring consultation with health and social care professionals in order to meet the medical needs of pupils;
- Work productively with other outside agencies to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of all vulnerable learners.

If you require further information about the provision for SEND in the school please talk to the class tutor of your child or contact the Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo).

2. Definition of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

The Aspire Academy uses the definition for SEN and Disability from the SEND Code of Practice (January 2015). This document states:

Special Educational Needs (SEN):

'A child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has:

- *a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her;*
- *has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age;*
- *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.*

Disability:

'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'. 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 a 'more than minor or trivial'. This definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer'. Children and young people with such conditions do not necessarily have SEN, but there is a significant overlap between disabled children and young people and those with

SEN. Where a disabled child or young person requires special educational provision they will also be covered by the SEN definition.

3. Identifying Special Educational Needs

The SEND Code of Practice January 2015 suggests that pupils are only identified as SEN where their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age.

The Aspire Academy recognises that early identification of a pupil's SEN together with appropriate multi-agency support is essential if a young person is to access the opportunities available at the Academy.

The SEND Code of Practice January 2015 clearly states that special educational provision should be matched to the child's identified SEN. The Aspire Academy will use its best endeavours to secure special educational provision for pupils for whom this is required, that is 'additional to and different from' the provision provided within the differentiated curriculum, to better respond to the four broad areas of need:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional, mental health
- Sensory/physical

The Aspire Academy will know a pupil needs extra help by:

- Working closely with colleagues from commissioning schools on transition and during placement to ensure that all relevant information and data is effectively shared and informs provision;
- Ensuring clear referral routes for staff wishing to bring to the notice of the SENDCo a young person who may be experiencing SEN;
- Listening to concerns raised by pupils, parents/carers, external agencies, teachers, higher level teaching assistants (HLTA's), teaching assistants or the pupil's commissioning school regarding a pupil's level of progress or inclusion;
- Regular screening of data, such as that completed on entry or as a result of a concern being raised;
- Undertaking whole school tracking of attainment, identifying areas of concern;
- Identifying through observation that a pupil needs extra support in one or more of the four broad areas of need.

4. What should a parent/carer do if they think their child may have special educational needs?

If parents/carers have concerns relating to their child's learning then please discuss these either with:

Their child's tutor

The Aspire Academy's SENDCo, Mrs. Beverley Blower, who can be contacted on 01905 455422 or via email on bblower@theaspireacademy.org.uk.

Or the Aspire Academy's Assistant SENDCo, Mr Sakander Zaib, who can be contacted on 01905 455422 or via email on SZaib@theaspireacademy.org.uk.

All parents/carers will be listened to. Their views and their aspirations for their child will be central to the assessment and provision that is provided by The Aspire Academy.

5. A Graduated Approach to SEND Support

The needs of the majority of the pupils will be met in the classroom. Teachers, HLTA's and teaching assistants are expected to make every effort to ensure that pupils with SEND are fully involved in the life of the class. For some pupils it will be necessary for them to be withdrawn from the classroom at specific times for activities related to the needs identified. This will complement the classroom work so that skills, knowledge and understanding will be transferred back into the classroom or vocational placement setting.

On referral to The Aspire Academy pupils are assessed for their baseline assessment in Reading, English and Mathematics, this assessment data not only informs the future attainment flight path but also highlights areas of need connected to support.

Reports received from outside agencies are scrutinised by the SENDCo and session delivery staff, these recommendations are then evaluated for progress by the teacher, HLTA or teaching assistant and then forwarded to the SENDCo for review. All intervention is recorded on the school's management system thereby creating a provision map of intervention for all pupils which in turn generates a whole school provision map.

Teachers and HLTA's are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all pupils in their class, including where pupils access support from learning leads or specialist staff. High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have, or may have, special educational needs (SEN).

The Aspire Academy will ensure that:

- All pupils will be provided with quality first teaching which is differentiated to meet the diverse needs of all learners;
- Pupils with a disability will be provided with reasonable adjustments (such as auxiliary aids and services) overcome any disadvantage experienced in schools and increase their access to the taught curriculum;
- The Aspire Academy regularly and carefully reviews the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This process includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving teachers' knowledge of the SEN most frequently encountered;
- The quality of classroom teaching provided to pupils with SEND is monitored through a number of process which include:
 - Classroom observations by the Sensor Leadership Team (SLT) and external verifiers;
 - Ongoing assessment of progress made by pupils with SEND;
 - Work sampling and scrutiny of planning to ensure effective matching of work to pupil need;
 - Teacher meetings with the SENDCo to provide advice and guidance on meeting the needs of pupils with SEND;
 - Pupil and parent/carer feedback on the quality and effectiveness of interventions provided;
 - Attendance and behaviour records.
- All pupils have individual targets;
- Pupil attainments are tracked using the whole school tracking system and those failing to make expected levels of progress are identified quickly, support and intervention is then discussed and implemented;

- Where it is decided during this early discussion that special educational provision is required to support pupil attainment, parents/carers will be informed that the school considers their child may require SEND support and their partnership sought to support this decision;
- Action relating to SEND support will follow an ‘assess, plan, do and review’ model. As outlined in the SEND Code of Practice January 2015 parents/carers will be involved in planning support and, where appropriate, in reinforcing the provision or contributing to progress at home:
 - **Assess:** Data on the pupil held by the school will be collated by the teacher, HLTA or teaching assistants in order to make an accurate assessment of the pupil’s needs. Parents/carers will always be invited to this early discussion to support the identification of action to improve outcomes.
 - **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/carers and the pupil will be obtained and appropriate evidence-based interventions identified, recorded and implemented by the class/subject teacher/HLTA with advice from the SENDCo.
 - **Do:** SEND support will be recorded on a plan that will identify a clear set of expected outcomes, which will include relevant academic and developmental targets (this may include for young people, targets around preparing for adulthood) that take into account parents’/carers’ aspirations for their child. Parents/carers 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.
 - **Review:** progress towards these outcomes will be tracked and reviewed termly with the parents and the pupil.

If progress rates are still judged to be inadequate despite the delivery of high quality interventions, advice will always be sought from outside agencies regarding strategies to best meet the specific needs of a pupil. This will only be undertaken after parent/carer permission has been obtained and may include referral to:

- Special Educational Needs Support Service
- Learning Support Service
- Worcestershire Dyslexia Pathway
- Umbrella Team Worcester, including the Integrated Specialist Support Service (ISSS)
- Hearing Impairment Team
- Visual Impairment Team
- Autism and Sensory Support
- Educational Psychologist Service
- Educational Welfare Officer
- Physical and Disability Support Service
- Social Services
- School Nurse
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Worcestershire’s Children’s Service for Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT)

For a 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, after discussions with the commissioning school, 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.

Any pupil identified as having a SEND will be placed on The Aspire Academy's SEND register.

6. How will the curriculum be matched to each child's needs?

Delivery staff will plan sessions using pupils' achievement levels, differentiating tasks to ensure progress for every pupil in the session. When a pupil has been identified as having special educational needs, the delivery and the learning environment will be further adapted by the session leader to reduce barriers to learning and enable the pupil to access the learning more easily. These adaptations may include strategies suggested by the SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo and/or external specialists. In addition, if it is considered appropriate, pupils may be provided with specialised equipment or resources such as ICT and/or additional adult help. All actions taken by the session leader will be recorded and shared with parents/carers.

7. Continuing Professional Development

Through the monitoring and evaluation of our provision the SENDCo with the Headteacher will identify any particular professional development needs of the staff. This will, where appropriate, be closely linked to the Academy's performance management objectives and school development plan. Staff who attend further courses will feedback on courses attended through staff meetings.

8. How will parents/carers know how their child is doing?

Attainments towards the identified outcomes will be shared with parents termly through feedback regarding SEND support reviews, but also through regular contact meetings/telephone conversations with parents/carers. Parents/carers are encouraged to arrange an appointment to discuss their child's progress with the individual sessions leaders or a member of the senior leadership team, which includes the SENDCo and the Assistant SENDCo, at any time when they feel concerned or have information they feel they would like to share that could impact on their child's success. Please contact the school office who will arrange this appointment for you. The contact number is 01905 455422.

9. How will parents/carers be helped to support their child's learning?

Parents/carers are important partners in the effective working relationship with The Aspire Academy in raising their child's attainment. We recognise that families have valuable knowledge about their child and they are encouraged to be fully involved in the identification, assessment and decision-making process connected to their child's SEND needs. Various advice/support is available for parents/carers to help them with this:

- Please look at the school website www.theaspireacademy.org.uk which links to websites and resources that we have found useful in supporting parents/carers to help their child learn at home, this information can be found under the SEND area;
- The session leader, SENDCo or Assistant SENDCo may also suggest additional ways of supporting your child's learning;
- If you have ideas on support that you would like to have access to in order to further support your child's learning, please contact the SENDCo who will locate information and guidance for you in this area.

10. What support will be available for children's overall well-being?

The Aspire Academy offers a wide variety of pastoral support for pupils. These include:

- Key adults assigned to pupils;
- Parent Liaison through Project Manager and Project Manager Assistant;

- An evaluated Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PHSE) curriculum that aims to provide pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to enhance their emotional and social knowledge and well-being;
- Small group evidence-led interventions to support pupils' well-being are delivered to targeted pupils and groups. These interventions aim to support improved interaction skills, emotional resilience and well-being;
- Pupils who find outside class times difficult are provided with alternative small group opportunities within the school and action is taken to develop their social interaction skills;
- The school has an Anti-bullying Policy which is reviewed annually for its provision in regard to ensuring pupils' safety by external agencies;
- A key stage 3 nurture group for pupils who require additional social and emotional support as well as targeted academic learning opportunities;
- Opportunity to pupils to receive CAMH targeted intervention support, through a school counsellor.

11. Pupils with medical needs

Pupils with medical needs will be provided with a detailed Health Care Plan, compiled in partnership with recommendations received from the commissioning school's nurse and parents/carers, and if appropriate the pupil themselves. Staff who administer medication will complete formal training in first aid.

All medicine administration procedures adhere to the Local Authority Policy and Department of Education (DfE) Guidelines included within Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (DfE) 2015.

12. Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of school personnel with regard to Special Educational Needs are given below. They are in accordance with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (January 2015) guidelines and school job descriptions:

Governing Body:

- In partnership with the Headteacher, the Governors have responsibility for deciding the school's general policy and approach to meet the needs of pupils with SEND;
- Ensuring, through the appraisal process, that the Senior Leadership Team led by the Headteacher sets objectives and priorities in the school development plan, which includes provision for SEND;
- Monitoring the policy through the school's self-review procedures;
- All Governors are informed of the school's provision, including funding, equipment and staffing;
- Reporting annually to parents on the school's policy through the website.

The Headteacher:

- Setting objectives and priorities in the school development plan, which includes SEND;
- Have an over-view of the day to day provision for pupils with SEND, including setting a budget for supporting pupils within the school's overall financial resources;
- Informing the Governing body of SEND provision.

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator:

- Disseminating information and raising awareness of SEND issues throughout the school;

- Is responsible for the management of SEND provision and the day-to-day operation of the policy;
- Managing and developing the roles of HLTA's and Teaching Assistants, through training and Performance Management;
- Screening and identifying pupil's needs;
- Co-ordinating provision for pupils with SEND;
- Supporting the teaching and learning of pupils with SEND;
- Keeping accurate records of all pupils with SEND;
- Monitoring the delivery of the SEND policy;
- Recruiting and deploying the school's Learning Support Team, which includes HLTA's and Teaching Assistants;
- Liaising with and advising academy staff, giving clear guidelines for procedures when needs are identified;
- Maintaining the Academy's SEND register and overseeing records of all young people with SEND;
- Liaising with the parents/carers of young people with SEND;
- Contributing to in-service training of staff;
- Providing support and advice to colleagues;
- Liaising with external agencies employed by referring schools;
- Consulting with the SENDCo's from other schools to exchange data and information for referred pupils, to ensure effective use of resources and to disseminate good practice;
- Managing resources, including staff;
- Managing individual plans linked to pupils with SEND;
- Monitoring and evaluating special needs provision and reporting to the Headteacher and governing body on the progress of SEND.

Assistant Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator:

- Disseminating information and raising awareness of SEND issues throughout the school;
- Working closely with the SENDCo to ensure implementation of the SEND Policy throughout the school;
- Screening and identifying pupil's needs;
- Assisting in the co-ordination of provision for pupils with SEND;
- Supporting the teaching and learning of pupils with SEND;
- Liaising with and advising academy staff, giving clear guidelines for procedures when needs are identified;
- Liaising with the parents/carers of young people with SEND;
- Contributing to in-service training of staff;
- Providing support and advice to colleagues;
- Liaising with external agencies employed by referring schools;
- Consulting with the SENDCo's from other schools to exchange data and information for referred pupils, to ensure effective use of resources and to disseminate good practice;
- Managing individual plans linked to pupils with SEND;
- Assisting in developing the School's annual SEND Information report;
- Undertaking reviews connected to Education, Health and Care Plans, informing the SENDCo of developments connected to these.

13. Supporting Pupils and Families

Local Offer: Worcestershire County Council, with partners, has developed a 'local offer' which allows you to easily find in one place services available in the local area for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities. This 'local offer' consists of a website that pulls in information about relevant organisations, services, schools and settings. It allows you to search for what is close by or for services that support a particular need. This 'Local Offer' Website can be found at <http://worcestershirelocaloffer.org.uk/>.

In the first instance the local offer includes information about Worcestershire's response to SEND reform. It links to the other Worcestershire County Council information sites which contain details about a range of services for children and young people www.worcestershire.gov.uk.

The 'local offer' website www.worcestershirelocaloffer.org.uk pulls in information about services, groups and providers including information from their Facebook and Yelp accounts. This means that all of the information is independent and allows organisations and services to update their own details.

All links to the above websites can be found on The Aspire Academy's website <http://www.theaspireacademy.org.uk> under the SEND area.

Support Services for parents/carers of pupils with SEND include: Parent Partnership Services (PPS) offer independent advice and support to parents and carers of all children and young people with SEND. The nearest PPS can be located <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4209/sendiasseaflet.pdf>. The PPS will also provide information on how to access an Independent Supporter for those parents whose children are being assessed for an EHCP. Independent Supporters aim to provide guidance to parents regarding the EHCP process. A FAQ factsheet on Independent Supporters is located here <http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/media/724462/guidance-to-parents-on-is.pdf>.

Complaints Procedure: If parents/carers have a complaint concerning the provision for their child they should discuss this with the class tutor. If this proves unsuccessful, the matter should be referred to the SENDCo and/or Headteacher. Should the matter still be unresolved the parents/carers should contact the 'responsible person' on the governing body. If the complaint remains unresolved the Chair of Governors should be involved. Final recourse is to take the complaint to the Secretary of State.

For parents/carers who are unhappy with the school responses to their child's SEND, parents may seek mediation from the regional mediation services. Parents and carers can also appeal to the Government's SEND tribunal if you disagree with the school's decisions about your child's special educational needs. You can also appeal to the tribunal if the school has discriminated against your disabled child. Follow the following link for information on mediation http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20584/mediation_send_local_offer.