

# Dominican College Fortwilliam



## Special Educational Needs Policy

## Foreword

For the purposes of this document the term SEN refers to those pupils who have special educational needs and/or a disability which affects their learning. This policy takes account of the following legislation and documentation:

### Legislation:

- [The Education \(NI\) Order 1996](#)
- [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(NI\) Order 2005](#)
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act \(NI\) 2016](#)

### Documentation:

- [Department of Education Northern Ireland \(1998\) Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs. Bangor: DENI](#) (PDF, 644KB)
- [Department of Education Northern Ireland \(2005\) Supplement to the Code of Practice. Bangor: DENI](#) (PDF, 801KB)
- [Equality Commission, Northern Ireland \(2006\) Disability Discrimination Code of Practice for Schools \(SENDO\)](#). (PDF, 761 KB)
- [Department of Education Northern Ireland \(2009\) Every School a Good School – a policy for school improvement, Bangor: DENI](#). (PDF, 706KB)

## Introduction

This policy reflects the Dominican College vision to:

“Inspire, Motivating and Empower Learners”;

while ensuring that we stay true to the school’s mission to remain:

“Dedicated to Truth and Respect, Committed to Realising the potential of all”.

Within the context of a purposeful learning community, and recognising the uniqueness of each individual, we aim to enable every pupil to reach her full potential: spiritually, academically, morally, socially and aesthetically. We work in partnership with parents and guardians and other relevant agencies to ensure that all our pupils realise their full potential, becoming effective contributors to society.

In the tradition of our Dominican Founders:

- *We see* the school as a community centred on Christ and so our values are those of the Gospel.
- *We acknowledge* the dignity and uniqueness of each individual, made in the image of God.
- *We seek* to base our relationships on mutual trust and respect.
- *We strive* to create a harmonious and safe environment where the gifts of each will flourish.
- *We elicit* the co-operation of our students in the pursuit of truth in all its forms so that they will learn to make informed judgements.
- *We uphold* the ideals of generosity, freedom, tolerance and responsibility in all areas of daily life.
- *We remain* open to the wider world – willing to adapt but always maintaining our Christian values.

## **Rationale**

Dominican College is committed to providing equal access for all pupils to a broad and balanced educational experience based on the Northern Ireland Curriculum. We recognise that some pupils, during their school career, may have special educational needs and/or a disability. In the interests of these pupils, we will endeavour to make every reasonable arrangement to provide for their individual needs.

The legislation that currently governs practice regarding children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) is the Education Order (1996). The current Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of SEN provides guidance on how the legislation is to be delivered in schools and was published in 1998.

SENDO (2005) increased the rights of children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities to be educated in mainstream schools and aimed to ensure that children with disabilities were not disadvantaged compared to their peers in school. This included the school being proactive in areas such as ensuring that the school is prepared with an adapted environment and differentiated curricula for all children who may wish to attend, including those with SEN/Disabilities.

The Supplement to the Code of Practice was published in 2005 and updated parts of the 1998 Code of Practice to reflect the changes following SENDO (2005).

The most recent legislation, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (NI) 2016, strengthens and builds upon the duties contained within the Education Order (NI) 1996 and SENDO (NI) 2005. It places new duties on the schools Board of Governors, the Education Authority and Health and Social Care Trusts. It provides new rights for parents and children/young people over compulsory school age. It is one element of the new SEN and Inclusion Framework which include new SEN Regulations and a new statutory Code of Practice as of 2021, awaiting ministerial approval.

NB: In the interim, schools have been advised that they must continue to adhere to all aspects of the Code of Practice (1998) and the Supplement to the Code of Practice (2005), except for recording children under the new three stages of the Code of Practice.

## **Definitions**

For all involved in child's education it is important that there is a clear understanding of the terms 'special educational needs,' 'learning difficulty' and 'special educational provision, as defined in Article 3 of the 1996 Order.

## **Special Educational Needs**

A child has special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made.

## Learning Difficulty

A child has a learning difficulty if:

- (a) they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than **the majority of** children of the same age;
- (b) they have a disability which either prevents or hinders them making use of everyday educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in ordinary schools; or
- (c) they have not attained the lower limit of compulsory school age and is or would be if special educational provision were not made, likely to fall within (a) or (b) when of compulsory school age.

## Special Educational Provision

Special educational provision (SpEP) is educational provision, which is additional to, or otherwise different from, the educational provision made generally for children/young people of their age in ordinary schools.

## Disability

The following definition of disability is taken from the Disability Discrimination Act (1995):

A disability is when someone has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

(Paragraph 2.3)

## Key Principles of Inclusion

The Disability Discrimination Code of Practice for Schools (ECNI, 2006), states: *"...all pupils have a right to the same opportunities in the whole of their educational life."*

Dominican College has an inclusive ethos and actively seeks to promote the inclusion of all children.

## SEN and Medical Categories

The following is the list of the five overarching SEN categories and sub-categories taken from: [Department of Education Northern Ireland \(2019\) Recording SEN and Medical Categories – Guidance for Schools, Bangor: DENI](#)).

1. **Cognition and Learning (CL) – language, literacy, mathematics, numeracy**
  - a) Dyslexia (DYL) or Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) - language/literacy
  - b) Dyscalculia (DYC) or Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) - mathematics/numeracy
  - c) Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)
  - d) Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD)
  - e) Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)

**2. Social, Behavioural, Emotional and Well-being (SBEW)**

- a) Social and Behavioural Difficulties (SBD)
- b) Emotional and Well-being Difficulties (EWD)
- b) Severe Challenging Behaviour associated with SLD or PMLD (SCB)

**3. Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)**

- a) Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)
- b) Language Disorder associated with a differentiating/ biomedical condition (LD)
- c) Communication and Social Interaction Difficulties (CSID)

**4. Sensory (SE)**

- a) Blind (BD)
- b) Partially Sighted (PS)
- c) Severe/Profound Hearing Impairment (SPHI)
- d) Mild or Moderate Hearing Impairment (MMHI)
- e) Multi-sensory Impairment (MSI)

**5. Physical Need (PN)**

- a) Physical (P)

**Children with a medical condition**

Pupils who have an identified medical condition will be recorded on the school's medical register. Those who do not require special educational provision will be recorded on the medical register only and will not be placed on the SEN register.

A pupil with a medical diagnosis or disability may or may not have a SEN but what is key is "does the pupil have a requirement for special educational provision to access the curriculum."

A pupil can be recorded on both the SEN register and medical register if they have both a medical need and require special educational provision to be made for them.

The Pastoral Vice-Principal has overall responsibility for the Medical Register and will work closely with the SENCo, Heads of Year and Medical Officer in the implementation of medical needs.

The following is the list of the key medical diagnoses as commonly identified and agreed by the Department of Health which occur within the school population taken from [Department of Education Northern Ireland \(2019\) Recording SEN and Medical Categories – Guidance for Schools, Bangor: DENI](#)).

- Epilepsy
- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Anaphylaxis
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)/ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Dyspraxia/ Development Co-ordination Disorder (DCD)
- Developmental Language Disorder (Medical) (DLD)
- Global Developmental Delay
- Down Syndrome
- Complex Healthcare Needs
- Anxiety Disorder (includes social anxiety, phobia, school refusal, obsessive compulsive disorder)
- Depression
- Eating Disorder
- Psychosis
- Other Medical Disorder
- Cerebral Palsy
- Spina Bifida – with Hydrocephalus
- Spina Bifida – without Hydrocephalus
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Acquired Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment
- Hearing Impairment
- Physical Disability
- Other Medical Condition/ Syndrome

## Policy Aims

1. To identify pupils with SEN/disability as early as possible using a variety of measures and in consultation with appropriate personnel.
2. To ensure full entitlement and access for pupils with SEN/disability to high quality education within a broad, balanced, relevant, and differentiated curriculum.
3. To ensure that all pupils with SEN/disability feel valued.
4. To offer curricular, pastoral, and extra-curricular opportunities that allow pupils to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills so ensuring progress, promoting success and self-confidence.
5. To offer a broad curriculum which will promote intellectual, emotional, social, and physical progress in order that pupils can develop as valuable members of society both now and in the future.
6. To encourage parental partnerships in all aspects of SEN provision.

7. To consider the views of the pupil when planning and implementing SEN provision taking into account their age and capacity.
8. To support the pupil in participating in making decisions in all aspects of their learning.
9. To strive for close co-operation between all services and agencies concerned to achieve an effective multi-disciplinary approach to meeting SEN.
10. To educate pupils with SEN, wherever possible, alongside their peers.
11. To develop a recording system so that each pupil's performance can be monitored and reviewed appropriately.
12. To encourage and/or maintain the interest of pupils with SEN in their education.
13. To encourage a range of teaching strategies that accommodate different learning styles and promote effective learning.
14. To create a caring and supportive environment in which pupils can contribute to the planned provision in relation to their individual learning needs.
15. To meet the needs of all pupils who have SEN by offering appropriate forms of educational provision and the most efficient use of available resources.
16. To promote collaboration amongst teachers in the implementation of the SEN policy.
17. To work closely with EA services and other outside agencies as appropriate to support each pupil with SEN.

## **Arrangements for Co-ordinating SEN Provision**

Although meeting the needs of pupils with SEN is a whole school issue the overall responsibility for managing SEN provision resides with the Board of Governors and the Principal of the school. However, to facilitate the day-to-day running of the provision the board of governors has delegated responsibility to co-ordinate the provision for pupils with special educational needs to the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo).

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The following section highlights the key roles and responsibilities of all those involved in SEN provision:

### **Board of Governors**

The role of the Board of Governors of a mainstream school is to exercise its functions in relation to the school with a view to ensuring that provision is made for registered pupils with special educational needs. There will be a designated governor with responsibility for SEN.

Chapter 12 of the document '*Every School a Good School*' (DENI, 2010) relates specifically to the role of the governor in supporting pupils with special educational needs. Based on this information, The *SEN Resource File* (DENI, 2011) outlines that the Board of Governors has a statutory duty to:

- take account of the provisions in the DE Code of Practice on identifying and assessing special educational needs;

- use their best efforts to provide for pupils identified with SEN and that parents are notified of their child's special needs;
- maintain and operate a policy on SEN;
- ensure that where a registered pupil has special educational needs, those needs are made known to all who are likely to teach them;
- check that the teachers in the school know the importance of identifying those registered pupils with SEN and of providing appropriate teaching; and
- allocate funding for special educational needs and disability; and
- prepare and take forward a written accessibility plan.

### **Principal**

According to the Code of Practice (1998) the Principal will:

- keep the Board of Governors informed about SEN issues;
- work in close partnership with the SENCo (Soon to be Learning support Co-Ordinator);
- liaise with parents and external agencies as required;
- delegate and monitor the SEN budget;
- ensure the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are actively involved in the management of SEN within the school;
- SLT members will ensure consistency of practice and contribute to the realization of the school development plan; and
- provide a secure facility for the storage of records relating to special educational needs.

### **SENCo (soon to be Learning Support Co-ordinator)**

In all mainstream schools, a designated teacher who usually assumes the title of the special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo) will be responsible for:

- the day to day operation of the school's special educational needs policy;
- responding to requests for advice from other teachers;
- coordinating provision for pupils with special educational needs;
- maintain the school's SEN register and oversee all the records on pupils with special educational needs;
- working in partnership with parents of children/young people with special educational needs;
- leading the team of Classroom and General Assistants, giving clear vision and direction, establishing clear expectations and positive working relationships;
- devising, consulting on and distributing PLPs to staff, providing advice and support on their implementation;
- ensuring that SEND Pupil Annual Reviews are well organised and conducted professionally; and that actions are documented and implemented;
- establishing the SEN in-service training requirements of the staff, and contributing as appropriate to their training; and
- liaising with external agencies.

## **Learning Support Teacher**

The current Learning Support Teacher holds a Level 7 Certificate in Psychometric Testing, Assessment and Access Arrangements. The Learning Support Teacher will:

- Oversee the assessment of pupils who require Access Arrangements;
- Provide one-to-one learning support for pupils on Stage 1 of the SEN Register;
- Assist with the preparation of PLPS;
- Assist with the administration of Access Arrangements;
- Deputise for Classroom/General Assistants in the case of unavoidable absence.

## **Subject Teacher/Form Teacher**

The subject teacher should:

- be aware of current legislation;
- keep up to date with information on the SEN Register;
- gather information through observation and assessment;
- develop an inclusive classroom;
- work closely with other staff to plan for learning and teaching;
- contribute to, manage, and review PLPs/IEPs in collaboration with the SENCo; and
- involve SEN classroom assistants as part of the learning team.

## **Head of Year**

The Head of Year (HOY) will:

- be aware of current legislation;
- keep up to date with the SEN Register;
- liaise with other staff regarding pupils who are experiencing difficulty;
- work closely with the SENCO/Head of Learning Support Centre (LSC), and
- update records as appropriate.

## **Head of Department**

The Head of Department (HOD) will:

- be aware of current legislation;
- keep up to date with the SEN Register;
- ensure new members of department are familiar with the SEN Policy;
- ensure that practice and procedures within the department promote learning and teaching which is relevant and accessible to all pupils;
- support subject teachers to enable them to provide an appropriate and differentiated curriculum;
- ensure appropriate resources are available; and
- discuss issues with subject teachers through departmental meetings and forward minutes to SENCO when appropriate.

## **SEN Support Staff/ SEN Classroom Assistants**

Support Staff/ SEN Classroom Assistants will:

- report directly to the SENCo and work under the supervision of the Head of Support Services;
- work under the direction of the subject teacher;
- be involved in planning;
- look for positives by talking to the pupil about his/her strengths;
- provide practical support;
- listen to the pupil, speak to staff on their behalf;
- explain boundaries and operate these consistently and fairly;
- keep records and attend meetings; and
- share good practice.

## **Pupil views**

In school, as far as reasonably practicable, we seek and have regard to the pupil's views about their strengths, learning difficulties and education, taking into account their age and maturity. We seek and listen to their views about how they learn effectively and then focus on the strategies that work for them.

Key decisions for a particular pupil might include:

- contributing to their own assessment, provision, and progress;
- working towards achieving agreed targets;
- contributing to the review of PLP/IEPs, Annual Reviews, and the Transition process; and
- involving and supporting the pupils to participate in making decisions about matters affecting them.

Seeking their views and supporting them to participate in making decisions about their learning is good practice. The pupil's progress will be more effective when both they and, where appropriate, their parents are involved, and account is taken of their wishes, feelings, and perspectives.

## **Parent/person with parental responsibility**

At Dominican College we acknowledge that successful partnerships between parents, pupils and school play a key role in promoting a culture of co-operation, openness and transparency and have a crucial impact on the effectiveness of special educational provision. Seeking the views of the child or young person also plays a key role in helping us understand individual needs.

Teachers, pastoral staff, SENCos (LSCs), and other school staff all have a significant role in developing positive and constructive relationships with parents and pupils. We encourage this participation and value its contribution.

It is the school's responsibility to inform parents when staff are considering placing the pupil's name on the SEN register or moving the pupil between stages. It is essential that parents inform the relevant school staff of any significant needs their child may possess. They will do this as early as possible. For example, essential information may need to be made available by a parent upon a child's entry to the school.

Parents will be invited as necessary to:

- meet with staff to discuss their child's needs;
- attend review meetings;
- inform staff of changes in circumstances; and
- support outcomes/targets on PLPs.

## Admissions

The admission arrangements with respect to the majority of pupils with SEN must be consistent with the school's general arrangements for all other pupils.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Order (SENDO) (2005) legislation strengthened the right for children/young people with a Statement to an ordinary school place unless it is against the wishes of parents, or it is incompatible with the efficient education of others. Children/young people who have special educational needs but do not have a statement, must, except in specific circumstances, be educated in an ordinary school (Article 3(1) SENDO, 2005).

Children/young people with Statements of SEN are placed in the school at the request of the Education Authority (EA). When seeking to place a pupil with a Statement, the EA will take into account the wishes of the child's parents and the provision of efficient education for other children/young people in the class or school and the efficient use of resources to determine the suitability of the placement. This arrangement is in line with SENDO legislation.

## Accessibility

Every grant-aided school and independent school is required to have a written accessibility plan which should be publicly available and accessible via the school's website. The focus in the school's accessibility plan is to:

- increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school's curriculum. By way of example, this covers teaching and learning and the wider curriculum of the school such as participation in after-school clubs, leisure, and cultural activities;
- improve the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services provided or offered by the school; and
- improve the delivery to disabled pupils of the information which is provided in writing to pupils who are not disabled. This should be completed within a reasonable time and take into account their disability and any preferences expressed by them or their parents.

### EA Model Policy suggested insertion:

*Dominican College is actively engaged in the process of developing a comprehensive Accessibility Plan, in line with our statutory duties. (Accessibility duties stem from SENDO 2005; Disability Discrimination Act 1995 & EA Accessibility Strategy). While the formal plan is still being drawn up, we are committed to identifying and addressing barriers to access for both current and prospective pupils. Initial consultations have begun with staff, parents, and relevant stakeholders to ensure the plan reflects the diverse needs of our school community. In the interim, we continue to make reasonable adjustments where necessary to support pupils with disabilities, and we are reviewing our policies, physical environment, and curriculum delivery to ensure they promote inclusion and equal access. The forthcoming Accessibility Plan will outline specific actions and timelines to enhance accessibility across all areas of school life.*

At present:

- pupils with disabilities have equal access to all areas of the school building;
- the school is fully accessible to wheelchair users;
- there are well-equipped facilities for personal care;
- access to a broad and balanced curriculum can be facilitated appropriate to age, ability, aptitude, and attainments; and
- written information can be provided in a variety of formats upon request.

### **Special Facilities, Resources and Accommodation**

- Learning Support Teacher;
- In- house specialist assessor (Level 7 Certificate in Psychometric Testing, Assessment and Access Arrangements);
- SEN Support Hub;
- Lunchtime and Homework Clubs;
- Two lifts installed in the school;
- Accessible Toilet;
- Adjustable Furniture and Equipment;
- Additional monies in school budget for SEN.

## **Annual Report**

The Board of Governors report annually on all aspects of SEN provision in school. The SEN section in the Annual Report contains information on: the number of statemented pupils; pupils who received provision from EA Pupil Support Services or Health and Social Care Trust; and those that accessed school-delivered special educational provision. This report is made available by the end of Term 1 each year and published on the school website.

### **Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs**

It is vitally important that children with SEN are identified as early as possible and that an awareness of their possible difficulties is clearly communicated between all the professionals involved with their development. *(Code of Practice 1998, paragraph 2.14)*

Children with SEN should be identified as early as possible and assessed as quickly as is consistent with thoroughness. *(Supplementary Guide of the Code of Practice paragraph 5.12 - page 44)*

In Dominican College, the following may be used to identify pupils' needs:

- information from transferring school;
- teacher observation;

- standardised tests;
- diagnostic assessments;
- whole school assessment (e.g.: CAT/PTE/PTM);
- key stage assessments;
- class tests/school examinations;
- personal learning plans / individual education plans;
- care plans;
- personal education plans for children who are looked after;
- statements of special educational need;
- annual reviews;
- professional reports;
- parental contributions;
- pupil contributions;

## **The Management of Special Educational Needs**

### **The Three Stages of Special Education Provision**

In Dominican College, we adhere to the three stages of the Code of Practice. These stages focus on the level of intensity of the special educational provision required for a child to make adequate progress commensurate with their abilities and improve their outcomes. Responsibility for pupils with SEN at each stage lies with the school, given the day-to-day role of the school in a pupil's teaching and learning, with increasing EA involvement when required. A summary of the three stages of special education provision is set out below:

#### **Stage 1 includes:**

- School delivered special educational provision;
- A PLP/IEP is required;
- The majority of special educational needs will be met at this stage;
- The responsibility lies with the school;
- Operates in mainstream schools and classes; and
- Reasonable adjustments and additional strategies and approaches are implemented, aimed at meeting, and addressing the child's SEN.

The PLP/IEP will contain the core information/evidence of the school action to inform a request, if considered necessary, for access to EA SEN services at Stage 2. The child will only move to Stage 2 once any external special educational provision is being implemented.

#### **Stage 2 includes:**

- School-delivered special educational provision plus external provision, for example, the EA or the HSC Trust;
- A PLP/IEP is required. A smaller number of children will need this provision;
- The responsibility lies with the school plus external provision from EA;

- Operates in mainstream schools and classes (and by exception in special school or Learning Support Centre (LS Centre) for the purpose of assessment; and
- Reasonable adjustments, additional strategies and approaches are implemented plus resources, advice, guidance, support, and training provided through the EA SEN support services to address the pupil's SEN.

In the event of a pupil not making progress, despite the external support from the EA, the pupil may require consideration for a statutory assessment. A new online form designed to guide the user through the process is used to make a request for statutory assessment. The PLP/IEP contains the core school information the EA will use to consider and if appropriate make, a statutory assessment.

The pupil will remain at Stage 2 when a request for a statutory assessment is being considered, is being made and, if appropriate until a Statement is made.

### **Stage 3 includes:**

- Pupils with a statement of SEN;
- School and EA delivered special educational provision plus any relevant treatment or service identified by the HSC Trust;
- A PLP/IEP is required;
- A smaller number of children will need this provision;
- The responsibility lies with the school and the EA –with input from the HSC Trust where relevant;
- Operates in mainstream schools, LS Centres attached to mainstream schools or special schools (as determined within the pupil's statement);
- Reasonable adjustments, the school delivered special educational provision are implemented plus EA provision as set out in the Statement.

At Stage 3, the pupil has a statement and is receiving special educational provision (as set out in the Statement).

The pupil's PLP/IEP will be revised, to reflect the content of the statement (as it relates to the PLP/IEP including the SEN category (or categories); setting intended outcomes based on the objectives of the special educational provision and the nature and extent of the EA's provision including any relevant service and treatment the HSC Trust are to provide; and any additional school provision or modifications to the curriculum, as itemised in the statement; the pupil's PLP/IEP will be subject to regular monitoring, review and evaluation and will form the key basis of educational information to inform the annual review of the statement.

### **Exceptional Cases**

In most cases transition through the three-staged assessment process occurs in sequence. However, in exceptional circumstances, pupils may demonstrate such significant or unforeseen difficulties that with multi-professional and parental agreement a move to a higher stage of need is necessary immediately.

### **The Annual Review**

Article 19 of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 requires that any child or young person who is the subject of a statement of special educational needs, whether attending a special or mainstream school, must be reviewed annually, to make sure that the needs of the child or young person are still being met and to consider the appropriateness of the placement. Annual Reviews will be seen as part of the process of continuous monitoring of the child's progress. The Annual Review procedure is designed to:

- gauge the pupil's progress towards meeting the objectives specified in the Statement;
- review the special provision made for the child, including placement; and
- consider the appropriateness of maintaining the statement of special educational needs.

The annual review is carried out by the school on behalf of the EA.

The Review will take place in school and is chaired by the principal (or another person as delegated by the principal).

Relevant forms and the EA's guidance for this process are available by contacting the Statutory Assessment and Review Service (SARS) of the school's local EA office or they can be downloaded from the [EA website](#).

## Record Keeping

The SENCo (soon to be Learning Support Co-ordinator) keeps the following records in school:

- SEN Register;
- records of concern;
- personal learning plans (PLP)/individual education plans (IEP) and reviews;
- statements/annual reviews/transition plans;
- assessment results/data;
- individual pupil files;
- record of liaison/meetings with staff from the Education Authority's SEN Support Services/Health and Social Care Trust
- minutes of meetings with parents; and
- support, advice, and training provided to staff.

## Learning and Teaching

All children/young people have the right to a broad and balanced curriculum, taking into account the entitlement framework. This involves all staff in utilising a range of teaching strategies and classroom management styles designed to take account of the differing abilities, interests, and experiences of pupils. In order to facilitate this:

- the classroom environment will be inclusive, stimulating, and attractive, featuring as much pupil work as possible on display;
- lessons will be structured in a series of simple clearly defined steps;
- work tasks and activities should be stimulating and differentiated so that pupils experience success yet challenging enough to promote progression in learning;

- pupils should be set work to allow them to progress at their own rate;
- encouragement should be given to pupils to take responsibility for their own learning;
- sensitivity will be shown by staff to pupils' literacy and numeracy difficulties and how these impacts on communication. This needs to be taken into consideration when giving instructions; and
- positive feedback will be provided by staff and the achievements of pupils with SEN celebrated.

## **Access Arrangements for Examinations**

Access Arrangements are pre-examination adjustments for candidates based on evidence of need and normal way of working. Access Arrangements can be approved by school while others require prior approval from JCQ. Access Arrangements allow candidates/learners with special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries to access the assessment without changing the demands of the assessment.

Joint Council for Qualifications 2021, JCQ, accessed 1.10.21.

<<http://www.jcq.org.uk>>

JCQ Handbook, 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022

- A member of staff (Learning Support Teacher) is the in-house designated assessor and will assess candidates, process applications online and hold the evidence for inspection purposes for GCSE and/or GCE qualifications.
- The SENCo, fully supported by teaching staff and members of the senior leadership team, must lead on the access arrangements/reasonable adjustments process within his/her Centre.
- The SENCo must work with teaching staff, support staff (such as SEN Classroom Assistants) and exams office personnel to ensure that approved access arrangements/ reasonable adjustments are put in place for internal school tests, mock examinations, and examinations.

## **Monitoring the Progress of Pupils with Special Educational Needs**

It is the responsibility of the SENCo (LSC) to ensure that the progress of pupils on the SEN register is monitored. This may be achieved by considering that:

- Personal learning plans/individual education plans are monitored and reviewed for quality, progression, and appropriateness through meeting with teachers on a regular basis;
- Evidence is collated to demonstrate whether the pupil is making progress; and
- Information gathered is used in future planning for intervention and to inform movement either up or down through the stages of the Code of Practice.

## Professional Development

The principal in consultation with the SENCo (soon to be Learning Support Co-ordinator) oversees the professional development of all staff in his/her school. It is essential that all staff are keep-up-to date with SEN developments to provide effective teaching and support for pupils.

Following attendance at relevant internal or external education and training programmes, staff members should be encouraged to disseminate the information provided to build the capacity of their colleagues.

The SENCo (LSC) will keep a record of all training attended by or delivered to staff in relation to SEN.

## Partnership working

In school we work with a range of EA Pupil Support Services, where appropriate, to receive training and guidance to support the school and parents in meeting the needs of children with special educational and medical needs. Examples of EA [Pupil Support Services](#) may include:

- Autism Advisory and Intervention Service (AAIS)
- Sensory Service
- Special Educational Needs Inclusion Service (SENIS)
- Literacy Service
- Transition service.

Other services may include:

- [Behaviour Support and Provisions](#)
- [Education Psychology Service](#)

## Other Support Services

- Barnardo's
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Child Development Clinic (CDC)
- Independent Counselling Service for Schools (ICSS)

## Other Educational Settings

Under the entitlement framework where links are established with other schools, Further Education Colleges and/or work placements, it is essential that all relevant information pertaining to pupils with SEN is communicated effectively, in order to ensure the best outcomes for each pupil.

## Complaints

All complaints regarding SEN will be dealt in line with the school's existing complaints procedures.

If you have any queries in relation to special educational needs of a pupil with a Statement or who is currently being assessed for a statement of special educational needs, you can contact your local [EA Office](#). Please contact your SEN Link Officer in the first instance. Contact details should be on the EA documentation issued to you alongside your child's statement.

## Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Service (DARS)

The [Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Service \(DARS\)](#) provides an independent, confidential forum to resolve or reduce the disagreement, in relation to special educational provision, between parents and school/Boards of Governors or the EA for pupils who are on the Code of Practice where previous attempts to do so have been unsuccessful. Parents can contact the service which is provided by [Global Mediation](#). Involvement with DARS will not affect the right to appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST)

## Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST)

The [Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal \(SENDIST\)](#) considers parents' right to appeal against the decisions made by the Education Authority about their child's special educational needs whenever an agreement cannot be reached.

This service also addresses claims of disability discrimination in school.

## Monitoring and evaluating the SEN Policy

The SEN policy will be reviewed annually and communicated to staff, parents and pupils. It will be amended as appropriate in light of changes in legislation or practice following targeted consultation with all staff members, parents, and external agencies. This policy will be brought to the Board of Governors for final approval.

<b>Approved by:</b>	Mrs Sheila Crea (Chair of governors)
<b>Date:</b>	October 2025
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	