

# Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy

## Purbeck View School

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Purbeck View School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all students fulfil their potential.

The Mission Statement of Purbeck View School is: **“To provide a friendly, co-ordinated and stress free environment where each individual has the emotional and physical space to learn, grow, develop and achieve their personal best both academically and socially.”**

This policy is written to outline how we support and education the young people within our school in order that they achieve their full potential. It will detail how we work with our young people to overcome some of the barriers their special educational needs present and how we harness some of their unique abilities.

### Legal Status

- Complies with Part 6, paragraph 24 (3) (b) of The Education (Independent School Standards Compliance Record) (England) (Amendment) Regulations.
- Part 3 of the Student and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations including the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, relevant to the Code of Practice and relating to student and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.
- Prepared with regard to the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality Duty 2011, Race Relations Act 1976, Race Relations Amendment Act 2000, Sex Discrimination Act 1986, Student’s Act 1989 and Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001
- Children’s Home Regulations (England) 2015

### Applies to

- The whole school along with all activities provided by the school, including those outside of the normal school hours;
- All staff (teaching and non-teaching), and volunteers working in the school.

### Other relevant documents

- Curriculum Policy
- Assessment Policy

## Availability

This policy is made available to parents, staff and students in the following ways: via the School website, and on request a copy may be obtained from the School Office.

## Principles

Purbeck View School exists to support and care for up to 57 young people from 7 to 19 years old, who are experiencing difficulties as a result of a diagnosis of autism, and other associated difficulties falling within the autistic spectrum, for example challenging behaviour, epilepsy, ADHD. We believe that students with autism should have access to a calm, consistent, eclectic approach to meet their very individual needs and address their diagnosis. In order to achieve their full potential, we must have high expectations and an open, honest partnership with parents and all attached professionals.

The ultimate goal of Purbeck View School is to support our students, through specialist approaches, appropriate environments and staff expertise, to prepare them to meet the demands of everyday life as they move forward from the school into adult provisions. We want them to live as independently as possible, making decisions about their lives and having a degree of autonomy commensurate with their abilities.

We aim to provide a supportive, therapeutic environment and a range of opportunities within which students can develop self-esteem, self-advocacy, personal dignity, confidence, maturity and enjoy positive relationships leading to an optimum quality of life. Our assessment tool, combining Education, Care and Therapeutic provisions, E-GAP (Education – Global Assessment of Progress) will provide a measure of progress across all disciplines in a holistic way. Individualised plans are designed to meet specific needs and these plans form the basis of the three-way partnership between student, family/other relevant parties and staff.

- IEP (individual education plan - covers therapy and care targets)
- Behaviour Support Plan
- Individual Risk Assessment
- B-squared - academic subject specific assessments
- CASPA – comparative, national assessment
- Speech and Language Therapy – Children’s communication checklist (Bishop), Spence social skills questionnaire, Derbyshire LS if appropriate
- Occupational Therapy - Sensory Profile Care-givers questionnaire (non-standardised), Clinical Observation of ASD and severe learning difficulty, High-functioning clinical observations
- Psychology - Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, Developmental Disabilities Children’s Global Assessment Scale (DDCGAS), Psycho Educational Profile -3 (PEP-3), Leiter R, Adaptive Behaviour Assessment System – Second Edition (ABAS), Weschler Intelligence Scale for Children 3 (WISC III)
- Medical assessments – overseen by the School Nurse, medical/well-being needs continually reviewed in consultation with Consultant Paediatrician, GP, Consultant Psychologist and Consultant Psychiatrist
- Ophthalmic and dental needs are monitored annually with professionals either visiting the school to carry out examinations or students accessing community facilities.

All assessments are reported in the Annual Review documentation and shared with parents and other professionals. This multi-disciplinary team work together to provide baseline assessments of need on student admission and then individual programmes are drawn up and shared across the staff teams

The School has had many adaptations over the years to ensure we meet the individual needs of the students who reside here. Students, parents and social workers etc. are consulted in relation to the individualised needs of a young person prior to admission at a planned pre-admission meeting. At this time matters relating to personal preferences or additional adaptations can be highlighted, discussed and planned for.

For existing students this will continue to be on-going and taken into consideration as part of any planned internal transition. Examples of this might include grab rails, television cabinets, wall screening and sensory activity centres etc.

Purbeck View School can accommodate 57 students in various house bases, each with its own dedicated care team. Every effort is made to create a happy, family atmosphere in the house. Each student has his or her own room and access to a shared bathroom with another student as well as some en-suite facilities. Floors are mostly washable for reasons of hygiene, but rugs and soft furnishings make each room more comfortable, homely and individualised. Supervision of students is of paramount importance and a high staffing ratio ensures that students are well supervised at all times. A one to two (staff: student) ratio is maintained as a minimum throughout the school day with a number of our young people requiring additional staffing throughout the waking day or for specific activities such as community access. Risk assessments have been written for all activities and each student has an Individual Risk Assessment. (IRA). There may also be student specific risk assessments related to individual circumstances.

### Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Curriculum (SMSC)

The philosophy and ethos of the school holds SMSC education in high regard and we believe it is essential in order to achieve the aims we set for our students. Initial information regarding SMSC for any particular student is gleaned from parents at the pre-admission meeting. An individual record of this is held in the student's file in their placement plan.

All staff share responsibility in ensuring that opportunities are provided to give the students positive learning experiences as part of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development throughout the whole curriculum. Students with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) have difficulty with their concept of self and are likely to find some of the more abstract ideas of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education challenging. The curriculum concentrates on the understanding of self, making sense of the world, their environment and their place in it through real life experiences.

Our aim is to enable students to understand right and wrong and regardless of their diagnosis, and teach them how to interact positively with other people. Although some of our students are non-verbal, we support their communication and interaction using other methods of communication such as signing, PECS or the use of technology assisted communication aids. Purbeck View is a communication rich environment where we are trying to communicate through a variety of means throughout the day to aid and reinforce communication.

Our School seeks to offer students with Special Educational Needs full access to a broad and balanced curriculum. There is a whole school approach, which involves all staff, in understanding how students learn and supporting students with Special Educational Needs. All peripatetic staff

are made aware of each student's needs which can be found in detail in the Placement Plan and Behaviour Support Plans of each individual. All staff have a responsibility to differentiate lessons to cater for individual learning needs. Parents/guardians and students will be involved fully in the process of the planning and delivery of support.

It is the policy of Purbeck View School that students who have been accepted into the school will be offered appropriate support to enable them to access the curriculum effectively and fulfil their potential. We are an inclusive school, determined to meet the needs of all our students. All our students will have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. The National Curriculum Inclusion Statement states that teachers will set high expectations for every student, whatever their prior attainment. Teachers at our school will use appropriate assessment to set targets which are deliberately ambitious. Potential areas of difficulty will be identified and addressed at the outset. Lessons will be planned to address potential areas of difficulty and to remove barriers to student achievement.

### Interpretation

As part of its commitments under articles 7 and 24 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UK Government is committed to inclusive education of disabled students and young people and the progressive removal of barriers to learning and participation in mainstream education. The Children and Families Act 2014 secures the general presumption in law of mainstream education in relation to decisions about where students and young people with SEN will be educated and the Equality Act 2010 provides protection from discrimination for disabled people. Independent schools are required to follow the Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years: Statutory guidance for organisations who work with and support student and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (DfE and Department for Health: 2014).

Our school regularly reviews and evaluates the quality and breadth of the support we can offer or can access for students with SEN or disabilities. We also consider our duties, as they apply to us as an independent school, under The Equality Act 2010. We give careful consideration in advance to what disabled students and young people we can accommodate in our independent school. School leaders will regularly review how expertise and resources used to address SEN can be used to build the quality of whole-school provision as part of their approach to school improvement.

### Equality Act 2010

Our school has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 towards individual disabled students and young people. We will make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services for disabled students, to prevent them being put at a substantial disadvantage. We give considerable thought to what disabled students and young people might require and what adjustments might need to be made to prevent that disadvantage. Our school has a duty to prevent discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations.

### Aims and Objectives

Our school's Special Educational Needs policy provides a framework for the provision of teaching and support for students with learning difficulties. The framework refers to entitlement, access and partnership. Although we aim to make provision for identified Special Educational Needs, it may not always be possible to do so within the school's resources. In such cases the Principal and the student's parents would be informed. Where a concern has been raised, any special needs or

disabilities will be identified at the earliest possible opportunity. The assessment process will involve partnership with all those concerned with the student, including parents/carers, teachers and other professionals. The student's views will also be sought. The aims of this policy are:

- to create an environment that meets the special educational needs of each student;
- to ensure that the special educational needs of students are identified, assessed and provided for;
- to make clear the expectations of all partners in the process;
- to identify the roles and responsibilities of staff in providing for student's special educational needs;
- to enable all students to have full access to all elements of the school curriculum;
- to ensure that parents are able to play their part in supporting their student's education;
- to ensure that our students have a voice in this process.
- In order to meet these aims, our objectives are:
- to ensure students with learning needs are identified as early as possible;
- to assess the student to identify specific areas of difficulty;
- to ensure all peripatetic staff are aware of the student's needs and are able to meet those needs within the school setting;
- to ensure students' records include information relating to their individual needs, interventions and outcomes;
- to assist staff in modifying curriculum to meet the student's needs within the classroom and provide training programmes when required;
- to ensure that no student with learning needs or disability is discriminated against on the basis of his/her disability;
- to work in partnership with parents, guardians and the student themselves in providing appropriate support and advice.

### Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)

The Principal is the appointed co-ordinator for special educational needs known as a Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo). It is the responsibility of the SENCo to co-ordinate the operation of the Special Educational Needs Policy. The SENCO who has an important role to play in determining the strategic development of SEN policy and provision in our school has day-to-day responsibility for the operation of SEN policy and co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual students with SEN, including those who have EHC plans.

The SENCO:

- provides professional guidance to colleagues and will work closely with staff, parents and other agencies
- will be undertaking a recognised SENCo qualification
- will be aware of the provision in the Local Offer and be able to work with professionals providing a support role to families to ensure that students with SEN receive appropriate support and high quality teaching.
- designs and monitors the personal learning plans;
- oversees the records for all students with special educational needs;
- maintains the school's SEND list;
- liaises with and advises fellow staff;
- liaises with parents of our students with special educational needs;
- works with external agencies, professionals and specialist tutors as appropriate;
- monitors Individual Educational Plans, as and when required;

- supports staff in developing strategies to meet effectively the learning needs of all students at our school;
- Provides high quality training for teachers and TAs to support students' well-being.

## Teaching Assistants

We also use TAs who are dedicated to one class group. This ensures that excellent working relationships between staff and students are developed and maintained. This also ensures knowledge of the individual student to be focused on and allows time for both staff and TAs to plan provision and differentiation for those students to ensure that they extend their learning beyond the completion of work. We believe that good collaboration between teachers and support staff is essential to ensure maximum progress for our students.

## What Purbeck View School does

We support our students in developing a 'voice' thus enabling them to express their own ideas, feelings and concerns. This begins by ensuring that they are able to communicate their needs and wishes. Once this is in place either through objects of reference, photographs, symbols, etc. opportunities are provided regularly through the student house meetings and through the School Council meeting. Each student has a key worker who ensures that there is a member of staff with whom they have a trusting relationship who will advocate on their behalf.

All students are given access to an independent advocacy service- NYAS – a dedicated advocate visits Purbeck View regularly and works closely with the staff team to ensure students are able to express any concerns or issues.

Independent Person – monthly visits are in place and the IP tours the school both observing and talking to staff and students about their experience of school.

Each student has time with their key worker to meet regularly and there is a student-friendly version of the complaints procedure designed to make it as accessible as possible to all. Student opinions are additionally sought via student questionnaires, activities using talking mats and incident debriefs.

The School has a proactive approach in ensuring that there is no discrimination against disabled children and prospective children in the provision of education and associated services and in respect of admissions and exclusions. Improving access to education and educational achievement by disabled children is essential to the Proprietor's policy of ensuring equality of opportunity, full participation in society and the economy. We are committed to Disability Equality and understand the need to embrace the spirit of the Disability Equality Duty detailed in the Disability Discrimination Act 2006 (DDA) and the Equality Act 2010. Through a positive approach we actively work towards disability equality, with our students, parents/guardians and staff. We note that the Duty is grounded in the Social Model of Disability and undertake to understand the implications of this and ensure it is embedded in the school culture and informs the way we apply the Duty. The school's ethos of care and support and its commitment to justice are the foundation of its aims in educating the whole school community to make its proper contribution to society. This Disability Equality policy and the Accessibility Plan contribute to the review and revision of related school policies as follows:

- School Improvement/Development Plan
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (SENDDA);
- Equality and Diversity Policy (Equal Opportunities, Racial Equality and Anti-bullying);
- Curriculum Policies;
- Admissions Policy;
- Inclusion Policy;
- Learning Outside the Classroom.

The School is committed to treating its students fairly. According to the Equality Act 2010, we must take reasonable steps to ensure that our students are not put at a substantial disadvantage by comparison with students who are not disabled. The School therefore seek to cater for every situation. It is intended as a general statement of our policy which sets out the principles underlying our approach to making adjustments for disabled students and the factors the school will take into account when considering requests for adjustments. Disability discrimination law covers employment, the provision of services and the provision of education. It is the policy of the School to comply with the DDA. The Equality Act 2010 requires that building owners and/or occupiers (service providers) to not discriminate against disabled people when providing goods, facilities, services and premises. This means that where facilities and services are provided for people who are not disabled, then similar facilities and services should be provided for disabled people.

Service providers are also required to take reasonable steps to:

- Change any practice, policy or procedure which prevents disabled people from using a service.
- Make reasonable adjustments to remove physical barriers which prevent disabled people using a service.

We believe that people with special needs should share the same rights as all members of the population. Within the statutory framework provided by current legislation and regulations, Cambian Group staff work to protect and promote, for all people with special needs, the right:

- to live full and independent lives to the maximum of their potential
- to a full, accurate and unbiased assessment of their special needs
- to the range of educational, care, health and other associated support services required to meet all their needs
- to be involved in decisions affecting their lives and to have their wishes, as far as possible, ascertained and respected
- to appropriate guidance, counselling and care which promote their physical, mental and spiritual health, and well-being
- to safe, attractive and comfortable living accommodation
- to privacy
- to adequate food, clothing, space and other necessities of life
- to the equipment, assistance and support services necessary to enable them to live with dignity
- to the degree of freedom of movement which is consistent with their health, safety and well-being
- to participate in and benefit from cultural, entertainment, recreational and sporting activities
- where possible to use facilities and services in the community
- to develop relationships without exploitation or coercion
- to the full protection of the law
- to be protected from all forms of abuse and from the fear or threat of abuse
- of access to information contained in their personal records, where this does not conflict with statutory regulations or threaten their well-being
- to supportive intervention to promote positive behaviour and to protect them from harm
- of access to suitably qualified, experienced and sympathetic staff in sufficient numbers to maintain quality of service
- to financial support sufficient to maintain their quality of life
- to have their links with home and family promoted and maintained
- to positive recognition of cultural and religious diversity.



In the light of our strongly held belief in these rights of the individuals in our care, we undertake the duty to promote them through the provision we make for our students and young people. We offer a high standard of education and care, based on an accurate assessment of individual need, and delivered in an environment which supports and promotes personal growth and development.

Our young people live in safe, homely and comfortable accommodation and are accorded a degree of privacy and consideration which safeguards their dignity and enhances their quality of life. We try always to involve them in making decisions that affect their lives and to take account of their wishes in relation to lifestyle, work and leisure. We seek to offer all our young people a full range of suitable activities within our school and where possible, in the community. These activities are age-appropriate, designed to encourage the degree of independence of which the young person is capable and to promote the development of good relationships with their peers and others with whom they come into contact. Consistent with protecting them from harm, we encourage freedom of movement and offer appropriate support to enable access to activities of their choice.

Whilst in our care, all our young people enjoy the full protection of the law. We operate checks, establish codes of conduct for staff and provide safeguards to ensure their safety from abuse or threat of abuse. There is a Cambian Education policy with regard to Safeguarding which is strictly followed in every school and college and which fulfils all statutory requirements. Our Complaints Procedure is comprehensive and of proven worth; for all establishments there are Independent Persons to whom complaints or concerns can be directed.

At Purbeck View School we maintain sufficient numbers of staff, suitably qualified and experienced, to ensure that our young people are carefully supervised and have access to support, advice, guidance and education of high quality. Particular emphasis is placed on helping them to reduce unwanted behaviours and to operate effectively as individuals in society. Every effort is made to maintain links with home and family and, where relevant, to ensure recognition of cultural and / or religious diversity.

Purbeck View School has been designed both environmentally and in its procedures to support students with a primary diagnosis of severe autism. The provision therefore has

- high staffing ratios
- all staff trained in the understanding of autism and a range of alternative approaches
- small class groupings
- total communication environment
- high structure and predictability
- therapeutic support from OT, Psychology and SLT
- consistency of approach
- regular, holistic review of programmes
- support from psychiatry services
- range of on-site resources to engage and stimulate this negating the need to make a transition into the community
- Good community links

## CURRICULUM

Purbeck View's curriculum is broad, balanced and relevant, encompassing the National Curriculum. The school has developed its own curriculum called the STARS curriculum. The STARS curriculum covers the breadth of the National Curriculum but is organised in a way that recognises and works with the triad of impairment to meet the needs of our learners with Autistic Spectrum Disorders.



The STARS Curriculum Policy sets out the way structure of the curriculum in more detail and outlines how the curriculum meets the needs of the learners at Purbeck View.

Students are based in 10 classes. Classes are grouped broadly according to Key Stage and compatibility.

Typically, students at Purbeck View have a diagnosis of Autism and will have severely limited functional, social, communication and intellectual skills. Challenging behaviours will include physically harmful behaviour directed towards self and /or others, destructive behaviour and withdrawal. They will usually have attended a special school, sometimes several, but will have experienced great difficulties in coping. They will have been supported through the provision of additional resources, generally through 1:1 or 2:1 staffing but will usually have been or will be on the verge of exclusion from their peer group when referred.

Standardised assessment will have shown achievement well below national norms, P level scores range from P3 – NC level 2, even where behaviour has allowed such assessments to take place. Most students will have presented significant challenges in the home setting and many will have been supported by Social Services in respite or full time care homes.

Purbeck View school understands behaviour to be functional and believes that the main factors behind student's challenging behaviour are:

- An inability to relate to the world and to cope with the anxieties and confusions that result
- An inability to communicate with the world to express need.
- Previous experience in which 'challenging behaviour' has been reinforced by adults and so has become learned.

## KEEPING SAFE

Purbeck View works hard to ensure that all students in our care are kept safe. Safeguarding is always taken very seriously and is everyone's responsibility.

Purbeck View have a dedicated designated safeguarding team who liaise closely with the local safeguarding teams, provide training and support for staff and students and follow up any concerns immediately. All staff are made aware of the signs of abuse and have a knowledge and understanding of all procedures and feel listened to. We work hard to ensure that all students feel that they are listened to and understand how they can complain. Written records are timely and are held securely.

Students are consulted on a regular basis about how they are feeling and asked if they feel safe. Staff are also consulted on how they think the students are feeling and what can be done to improve their safety

Purbeck View ensure that they are up to date with current National guidance and all staff are aware of documentation. Purbeck View complies with the Equality Duty (2011) which covers; Age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

It aims to;

'Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation.'

Any suspected bullying is reported immediately and Purbeck View liaise closely with the local safeguarding team.

Purbeck View continuously strives to promote a positive climate, a safe and calm environment for the students to live and work in and an ethos which is inclusive at all times.

## Democracy

Democracy is promoted within the school, it is vital that all students have a voice and have opportunities to make a contribution. This takes place within our student council, student consultation work for annual reviews and house group meetings. These values are also promoted through events and learning around government, both local and national and ensuring students are given opportunities to learn about elections and other democratic processes.

## The Rule of Law

At Purbeck View students learn about the rules of the school as well as those rules that govern the country. They are supported to develop an understanding of how to behave when out and about in the community and how to interact appropriately and positively with others.

## Individual Liberty

At Purbeck View students are actively encouraged to make choices as independently as possible within a safe and supportive environment. At Purbeck View we educate and provide boundaries for students to make choices in a safe way. Our curriculum empowers students to develop knowledge and understanding which helps them to make choices for example through our PSHE lessons.

## Mutual Respect

At Purbeck View we encourage and support our students to respect one another. We work hard to ensure that all students feel included and are able to make a contribution Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs.

At Purbeck View students develop an understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and have many opportunities to experience this diversity. We share and celebrate diversity through our whole curriculum and particularly through assemblies, RE, PSHE and special events. Students have the opportunity to observe practices related to their own faiths and beliefs and to share these with the rest of the school. Purbeck View promotes a positive and inclusive environment .Throughout the school year achievement and success is celebrated in a whole range of ways including within class plenary sessions, whole school achievement assemblies and through individual acknowledgement of accomplishment.

## Teaching and Learning at Purbeck View School

The Cambian Group Mission Statement is as follows:

‘To actively enable each and every one of the people in our care to achieve their personal best.’

In fulfilling the Cambian mission statement Purbeck View provide;

- A holistic approach to the education, care and therapy of our young people, with a curriculum providing opportunities across the waking day
- A curriculum that addresses the very special needs of our learners, is ASC specific and that promotes individualised approaches to learners
- A skilled staff team who are empathetic to the needs of the students and are trained to a high standard
- A therapeutic environment and facilities that maximise opportunities for students to learn and make progress
- A multidisciplinary approach to working where every professional around the child is fully involved and working together to secure best possible outcomes

## Our Values

- Teaching and Learning is at the heart of everything that we do at Purbeck View. We believe that every moment of every day is a learning opportunity
- The active inclusion of all students in their learning

- The use of positive, non-aversive strategies in helping students to develop self-management of their behaviour
- Developing students capacity for communication and the development of social skills and socially acceptable behaviours
- Promoting the health and welfare of our students
- Enabling students to make progress, and intervening in a precise and timely manner to ensure that progress is sustained

### Our Aims

At Purbeck View we provide a breadth of opportunities through a rich and varied learning environment allowing each child to achieve their personal best and experience significant success. Through our teaching we aim for our students to be successful learners and for each student to:

- Develop a love of learning by providing opportunities to acquire, develop, practise, apply and extend their skills in a range of contexts across the curriculum
- Become confident, independent learners that encounter, engage and explore
- Develop a range of skills towards independence to best equip our students to be able to live in modern Britain
- Communicate needs, make choices, make decisions and choose options that other people act on and respect
- Increase learner's awareness, understanding and respect of their environment and of the world
- Promote self-esteem and self-advocacy through the use of a range of systems of supported advocacy and to develop an awareness of self and sensitivity to others
- Celebrate and share success and achievement and Learning

Our core purpose at Purbeck View School is learning and teaching.

### Effective Learning

Effective learning takes place within a learning culture where students believe they can succeed and are personally involved in their learning

Learning is effective when;

- Learners understand the process of learning and take responsibility for their own learning
- Learners know their targets and reflect on their work and are involved in identifying how to improve to achieve maximum success
- Learners develop a positive view of themselves
- Learners experience a range of tasks
- Learners practise and apply their skills in other learning situations

### Effective Teaching

Effective teaching takes place when teachers have high and consistent expectations of all learners' behaviour and attainment.

Teaching is effective when;

- Teachers have high expectations for all students regardless of their starting points
- Teachers recognise diverse learning styles and use a variety of teaching strategies to motivate and develop a range of skills among learners
- Teachers build on learner's individual levels of attainment to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding
- Teachers use praise and positive reinforcement to motivate learners through lesson delivery, tasks and the celebration of achievement

- Teachers use a range of assessment tools including rich questioning to accurately assess student's learning and progress. Assessment is used to adapt and inform future learning opportunities
- Teachers have high and consistent expectations of all learner's behaviour, which promote safety, respect, self - esteem and positive attitudes

We provide high quality teaching and learning that directly contributes to raising achievements of all within Purbeck View. We provide a broad, balanced and highly engaging curriculum and individualised learning targets

### Healthcare and medical information

Our School Nurse oversees the health needs of the students who are all registered locally with the GP; all medical procedures are overseen by a Consultant Paediatrician and our Consultant Psychiatrist.

A Consultant Paediatrician attends school for medical oversight on a four weekly basis. A Consultant Psychiatrist, employed by Cambian, holds twice weekly sessions within the school. Only prescribed medication is administered at the school with the full knowledge and permission of parents. However, on occasions the GP may recommend a medication for example to alleviate a high temperature; in this situation the senior member of staff on duty is always informed before any medication is administered and parents are told as soon as possible. The school nurse deals with all medical matters and arranges regular dental and optician's appointments and medicals. Parents are invited to attend these if they so wish. The school follows very strict guidelines on the administration of medication and staff are trained to ensure these are adhered to.

All students have annual dental checks and annual/bi-annual eye tests (dependent on age) and have access to other clinical services including a nutritionist and physiotherapist.

Students are registered with a local General Practitioner. Other services provided at school by Cambian staff include:

- a weekly clinic held by our Consultant Psychiatrist
- on-site clinical psychology
- on-site speech and language therapy
- on-site occupational therapy
- full-time on-site School Nurse
- weekly GP clinic
- monthly paediatrician clinic
- annual dental check
- annual / two yearly optician's check

These services are immediately accessible and form part of the daily, waking-day provision. Many students are supported via a graded exposure programme to aid them to access the above detailed services if they are unable to or find this difficult.

Each student has a series of tailor-made programmes to meet their individual needs including – an IEP, a Sensory Diet, a Behaviour Support Plan, a Communication programme. These are delivered through the waking-day curriculum.

Menus have been vetted by a dietician and the meals have been reviewed by the Leadership Team. The lunchtime meal is a light lunch with options including sandwiches, soup and salad. The main meal is in the evening providing variety and balance. Dietary intake and bowel

charts are used to record daily events for some students. Many of our students have restricted diets. These are overseen by the school nurse supported by a doctor.

Health needs on a daily basis are managed by the School Nurse. All students are registered with the local GP who holds a surgery in school on a regular basis. Medication is given by trained staff, storage and security is overseen by the Nurse. Complex health needs are monitored by a Consultant Paediatrician and our Consultant Psychiatrist; they hold monthly and weekly/twice weekly surgeries respectively in school.

## POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Families who have a child with autism have invariably found life very difficult and have made every effort to meet the needs of their child. At Purbeck View School we wish to support parents through their journey in coming to terms with leaving their child with us for 52 weeks of the year. We believe that an open, honest partnership with parents is essential for a total education package. It is important that the students have regular contact with their families. They are helped to make a weekly telephone call home, to hear the voices of their parents and siblings. We also make use of Skype to provide a visual link to home.

Weekly reports from care and school are sent to parents to keep them totally involved in their child's education and life at Purbeck View School. These reports include photographs of the student participating in various activities across the week. Parents are requested to send postcards and letters and to visit at weekends when they are able to. Home visits during term time can be arranged if this supports the family and the student. Parents may phone in at any time and e-mail or Skype facilities are available if this is preferable. We aim to support parents by providing:

- a key worker for each student
- weekly reports from education and care to each set of parents
- a weekly telephone call from the student
- web/skype links
- annual reports and an opportunity to provide parental views
- annual reviews and a review statement
- CLA (Looked After) Reviews
- Individual Education Plan - reviewed half termly
- Behaviour Support Strategies
- social occasions when family members are welcome – e.g. Christmas, Sports' Day
- open door policy
- access to staff by telephone and e-mail
- literature
- homework to share with the student during holiday periods, if appropriate, and at parents' request

To ensure the safety of our students with epilepsy or other health needs, we may use listening devices to ensure the waking night staff can hear if a seizure or medical need is taking place. These devices are used only with parental consent.

Using a positive approach to behaviour management provides our students with proactive strategies, which may divert challenging behaviour.

All staff coming to work at Purbeck View School have training in promoting a positive approach for our students. The school has adopted MAPA (Management of Actual and Potential Aggression), as the positive behaviour management tool. We have an instructor on the school team who will ensure that all induction and refresher training is delivered across the staff team.

Purbeck View School fosters a consistent approach across all environments. It is usual for a child with autism to display behaviours that challenge others when they are anxious. This can stem from poor communication skills, confusion or lack of understanding of what is required. Clarity, good communication and common expectations are therefore necessary if the child is to gain in confidence and to feel relaxed enough to learn. Providing consistency across settings and between staff is an essential part of our work. As many difficulties are associated with communication, replacing behaviours which challenge with more appropriate communication is an essential role in school. Punishment is not considered appropriate and sanctions are not used. Understanding ASD and how students view the world is essential when dealing with these unpredictable behaviours. All incidents involving students are recorded in Sleuth (a software system that tracks and manages data) and any involving physical restraints are recorded in a separate numbered book. These incidents are reported to the Director of Children's Services at Cambian Head Office. Exclusions are rare and the only recorded ones relate to the mis-placement nature and inappropriate diagnosis.

Deprivation of Liberty – All of our students are extremely vulnerable due to their levels of understanding and lack of awareness of danger. We need to ensure that our students are safe in the school environment. We use the following devices to protect our students from potential harm relating to absconding, access to traffic on the main road and driveways and stranger danger. The school environment is divided up into gated sections some sections accessible through the use of a star key. All staff carry star keys, these are issued on appointment. Staff are tasked with keeping these keys safe and on their person at all times. Many of our doors have electronic/mechanical keypad entry. This level of security ensures that we have a good chance of hindering a student who may be in crisis from accessing the main road. These systems also ensure that access cannot be gained to student living accommodation from the outside by people who are not employed by the school.

If a student has been assessed through risk assessment, as being able to manage the site independently they can be given their own star key or entry codes. This needs to be carefully managed and form part of a planned approach.

All incidents and any physical restraints involving students are recorded and reported initially to the Senior Management and psychology team. All details are kept in the Restraint Log and then captured in Sleuth software where details and trends can be mapped and analysed.

## SEX EDUCATION

Sex and relationship education is an integral part of the school's PSHCE policy and as such is coordinated by the PSHCE curriculum coordinator.

There are cross-curricular links with Science and RE and it is an essential part of the school's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our students. It is recommended that all schools have a sex and relationship education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the students, and at Purbeck View School this is delivered on an individual basis incorporated into their IEPs. We maintain our open relationships with parents and carers on this very important and sensitive issue and any specific programmes are always talked through prior to their implementation to make sure that everyone is comfortable with the content.

In practical situations of our school we do what is necessary to enable student and young people to develop, learn, participate and achieve the best possible outcomes. Our school recognises emerging difficulties arising with young people and respond promptly. We understand parents know their student best and we place stress great importance when parents express concerns about their child's development. We listen to and address any concerns raised by student themselves.

When a child who has an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan or Statement of SEN joins our school, we will always consult with parents and the Local Authority to ensure that the required curriculum is provided for as set out in the Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan, including the full National Curriculum if this is specified. We will also co-operate with the Local Authority to ensure that relevant reviews, including the annual review, are carried out as required by regulation and best practice. The school will make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of student with an EHC Plan.

We have arrangements in place to support student with SEN or disabilities. We have developed a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEN. We recognise the benefits of early identification, identifying need at the earliest point, and then making effective provision, improves long-term outcomes for student. We have a focus on inclusive practice and removing barrier to learning, therefore special educational provision in our school is underpinned by high quality teaching which is differentiated and personalised, and is compromised by anything less. It is our aim to know precisely where student with SEN are in their learning and development. We:

- ensure decisions are informed by the insights of parents and those of student themselves;
- have high ambitions and set stretching targets for them;
- track their progress towards these goals;
- keep under review the additional or different provision that is made for them;
- promote positive outcomes in the wider areas of personal and social development, and ensure that the approaches used are based on the best possible evidence and are having the required impact on progress.

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the students in their class, including where students access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff. High quality teaching, differentiated for individual students, is the first step in responding to students who have or may have SEN. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching. Our school will regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all of our students, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable students and their knowledge of the SEN most frequently encountered. In deciding whether to make special educational provision, the teacher will consider all of the information gathered from within our school about the student's progress, alongside national data and expectations of progress. This will include high quality and accurate formative assessment, using effective tools and early assessment materials. For higher levels of need, our school will have arrangements in place to draw on more specialised assessments from external agencies and professionals.

### Use of data and record keeping

Our school has developed its own approach to record keeping in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998. The provision made for students with SEN will be recorded accurately and kept up to date. As part of any inspection, both Ofsted and ISI will expect to see evidence of student progress, a focus on outcomes and a rigorous approach to the monitoring and evaluation of any SEN support provided. Ofsted and ISI publish more detail about their expectations in their inspection guidelines. Our school will particularly record details of additional or different provision made under SEN support. This will form part of regular discussions with parents about the child's progress, expected outcomes from the support and planned next steps. They will ensure that they have accurate information to evidence the SEN support that has been provided over the student's time in the school, as well as its impact. A local authority that is considering or is carrying out an assessment of the student's needs will wish to review such information. We use our information system to monitor the progress and development of all students. Details of SEN, outcomes, teaching strategies



and the involvement of specialists will be recorded as part of this overall approach. Our school will readily share this information with parents. It will be provided in a format that is accessible (for example, a note setting out the areas of discussion following a regular SEN support meeting or tracking data showing the student's progress together with highlighted sections of a provision map that enables parents to see the support that has been provided).

Improving outcomes: high aspirations and expectations for student and young people with SEN in our school

All student and young people are entitled to an education that enables them to make progress so that they can:

- achieve their best;
- become confident individuals living fulfilling lives, and make a successful transition into adulthood.

Our school will identify and address the SEN of the students that we support. Our school must:

- use our best endeavours to make sure that a child with SEN gets the support they need – this means doing everything our school can to meet students and young people's SEN;
- inform arrangements for the admission of disabled students, the steps being taken to prevent disabled student from being treated less favourably than others in our school, the facilities provided to enable access to our school for disabled student and our accessibility plan showing how we plan to improve access progressively over time

### Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

All students at Purbeck View School will have identified SEN. This will be built into the overall approach to monitoring the progress and development of all students. The quality of teaching for students with SEN, and the progress made by students, will be a core part of our school's performance management arrangements and its approach to professional development for all teaching and support staff. School leaders and teaching staff, including the SENCO, will identify any patterns in the identification of SEN, both within our school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching. All our students will have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

The National Curriculum Inclusion Statement states that teachers will set high expectations for every student, whatever their prior attainment. Teachers at Purbeck View School will use appropriate assessment to set targets which are deliberately ambitious. We will identify potential areas of difficulty will be identified and addressed at the outset. Lessons will be planned to address potential areas of difficulty and to remove barriers to student achievement. By planning in this way, our students with SEN and disabilities will be able to study the full national curriculum. Our school will take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This SEN support will take the form of a four-part cycle through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the student's needs and of what supports the student in making good progress and securing good outcomes. This is known as the graduated approach. It draws on more detailed approaches, more frequent review and more specialist expertise in successive cycles in order to match interventions to the SEN of student and young people.

Our school will assess each student's current skills and levels of attainment on entry, building on information from previous settings and key stages where appropriate. At the same time, we will consider evidence that a student may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 and, if so, what reasonable adjustments may need to be made for them. Class and subject teachers, supported by the senior leadership team, will make regular assessments of progress for all students. These

assessments will seek to identify students making less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances. This can be characterised by progress which:

- 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 the child and their peers
- widens the attainment gap

Our school will always be alert to other events that can lead to learning difficulties or wider mental health difficulties, such as bullying or bereavement. Such events will not always lead to student having SEN but it can have an impact on well-being and sometimes this can be severe. Purbeck View School will ensure that we make appropriate provision for a child's short-term needs in order to prevent problems escalating.

Identifying and assessing SEN for student whose first language is not English requires particular care. Our school will look carefully at all aspects of a student's performance in different areas of learning and development or subjects to establish whether lack of progress is due to limitations in their command of English or if it arises from SEN or a disability. The purpose of identification is to work out what action we will need to take, and crucially not to fit a student into a category. In practice we recognise individual students often have needs that cut across all these areas and their needs may change over time. For instance speech, language and communication needs can also be a feature of a number of other areas of SEN, and student and young people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may have needs across all areas, including particular sensory requirements. A detailed assessment of need will ensure that the full range of an individual's needs is identified, not simply the primary need. The support provided to an individual will always be based on a full understanding of their particular strengths and needs and seek to address them all using well-evidenced interventions targeted at their areas of difficulty and where necessary specialist equipment or software.

Students with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. The profile for every child with SLCN is different and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some or all of the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives. Student and young people with ASD are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others.

### Complaints

Parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the student's class teacher, SENCo, or the Principal.

### Disability Discrimination Act

The whole raison d'être of our school is whenever possible to provide for students who have a disability -and to enable them to realise their potential. We would always consider admitting any student - no matter what accompanying disabilities they have providing we are confident that we are able to meet their special educational needs. In the light of the Disability Discrimination Act we have carefully considered what we might do to make our building more accessible to those who have a physical disability. Please refer to our Accessibility Plan and also our Single Equalities Policy.

## Monitoring and Review

This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Principal.

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