

Cambian New Elizabethan School
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES POLICY

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 Children 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 children 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, Children's Act 1989 and Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001

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), the Governors and volunteers working in the school.

Related documents:

- Inclusion Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Gifted and Talented
- English as an Additional Language 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.

Monitoring and Review:

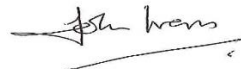
- This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Headteacher.
- The Proprietor undertakes an annual review of this policy and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than one year from the date shown below, or earlier if changes in legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed:

Date: February 2021



Craig Moreton
Headteacher



John Ivers,
Proprietor, Cambian Group

Cambian New Elizabethan 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

Principles

The school aims to identify pupils with any supplementary Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) at the earliest opportunity and offer appropriate provision. Our school seeks to offer pupils 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 children learn and supporting pupils with Special Educational Needs. All staff have a responsibility to differentiate lessons to cater for individual learning needs. Parents/carers and pupils will be involved fully in the process of the planning and delivery of support.

It is the policy of our school that pupils 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 pupils. Our school has a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND. We recognise the benefits of early identification – identifying need at the earliest point and then making effective provision improves long-term outcomes for the child or young person.

All our pupils will have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. The National Curriculum Inclusion Statement states that teachers will have high expectations for every pupil, 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 pupil achievement. School leaders and teaching staff, including the SENDCo, will identify any patterns in the identification of SEND, both within our school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching.

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 for disabled children 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 children and young people with SEND 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 children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (DfE and Department for Health: 2014)*.

A pupil has SEND where their learning difficulty or disability calls for additional arrangements, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age. Making Quality First teaching a priority within the context of the pupils who might require additional support at our school include, will help close the gap for our pupils.

The following are quotes from famous dyslexics;

“I see some things clearer than other people do because I have to simplify things to help me and that has helped others.” *Richard Branson*

“Writing and spelling were always terribly difficult for me. I was an extraordinarily bad speller and have remained so until this day.” *Agatha Christie*

“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life thinking it’s stupid.” *Albert Einstein*

Our school regularly reviews and evaluates the quality and breadth of the support we can offer or can access for children with SEND. We also consider our duties, as they apply to us as an independent school, under The Equality

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Act 2010. School leaders will regularly review how expertise and resources used to address SEND 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 children and young people. We will make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services for disabled children, to prevent them being put at a substantial disadvantage. Our school has a duty to prevent discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations with all stakeholders.

Aims and Objectives

Our school's Special Educational Needs policy provides a framework for the provision of teaching and support for pupils 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 Headteacher and the pupil'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 pupil, including parents/carers, teachers and other professionals. The pupil's views will also be sought. The aims of this policy are:

- to create an environment which meets the special educational needs of each pupil;
- to ensure that the special educational needs of pupils are identified, assessed and provided for using the Graduated approach
- to make clear the expectations of all partners in the process;
- to identify the roles and responsibilities of staff in providing for pupil's special educational needs;
- to enable all pupils to have full access to all elements of the school curriculum;
- to ensure that parents are able to play their part in supporting their pupil's education;
- to ensure that our pupils have a voice in this process.

In order to meet these aims, our objectives are:

- to ensure pupils with learning needs are identified as early as possible;
- to assess the pupil to identify specific areas of difficulty;
- to ensure all peripatetic staff are aware of the pupil's needs and are able to meet those needs within the school setting;
- to ensure pupils' records include information relating to their individual needs, interventions and outcomes;
- to assist staff in modifying curriculum to meet the pupil's needs within the classroom and provide training programmes when required;
- to ensure that no pupil with a learning need or disability is discriminated against on the basis of their disability;
- to work in partnership with parents, guardians and the pupil themselves in providing appropriate support and advice.

We aim to enable children 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 children 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 children themselves.

Admission Arrangements

Pupils entering the school will normally have a baseline assessment. This includes English, Mathematics and cognitive abilities. If a pupil has already been identified as having learning needs, relevant reports should be brought to the Pre-admission meeting. If necessary the SENDCo or a member of the SEND team will meet the pupil and talk to parents. Pupils are admitted to the school at the discretion of the Headteacher. Pupils will be admitted if the

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school can offer appropriate support. However, every effort will be made to accommodate a pupil with Learning Needs.

Where a child who has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) joins our school, we will always consult with parents and, where appropriate, the Local Authority to ensure that the required curriculum is provided for as set out in the EHCP, including the full National Curriculum if this is specified.

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo)

The Headteacher has appointed a co-ordinator for special educational needs known as a Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo). The current SENDCo is Sara Ferguson. There is also a Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) team in place to help oversee the needs of pupils throughout the whole school. It is the responsibility of the SENDCo to oversee this team and to co-ordinate the operation of the Special Educational Needs Policy. The SENDCo who has an important role to play in determining the strategic development of SEND policy and provision in our school, has day-to-day responsibility for the operation of SEND policy and co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEND.

What Cambian New Elizabethan School Does?

We work with Local Authorities 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 children with EHCPs. Any additional services which are needed to meet the requirements of the EHCP or additional services such as dyslexic tuition will be subject to a charge. This will be either directly to the parents or the Local Authority if they are responsible for the fees and our school is named in the EHCP.

We have developed a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND. We recognise that the benefits of early identification and then making effective provision, improves long-term outcomes for children. We have a focus on inclusive practice and removing barrier to learning, therefore special educational provision in our school is underpinned by Quality First teaching which is differentiated and personalised. It is our aim to know precisely where our children are in their learning and development. To ensure this we:

- ensure decisions are informed by the insights of parents and those of children themselves;
- have high ambitions and challenging 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 pupils in their class. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of high quality teaching. Our school will regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all of our pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEND most frequently encountered. For higher levels of need, our school will have arrangements in place to draw on more specialised assessments from external agencies and professionals.

Within the Assess, Plan, Do and Review cycle, our staff work seamlessly together towards enabling our pupils to reach the outcomes identified during the assessment phase of the process as their learning goals. We make key decisions about the use of the curriculum modifications and interventions are based on whether any chosen additional provision is the best way to move towards the identified outcome.

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Pupils with English as an additional language

Identifying and assessing SEND for children or young people whose first language is not English requires particular care. Our school will look carefully at all aspects of a child or young person'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 SEND or a disability. However difficulties related solely to limitations in English as an additional language are not classed as SEND.

Able Pupils

Occasionally a pupil will stand out from their peers as having exceptional abilities. If the need is considered very different from their peer group, the pupil has special needs. In most cases these special abilities can be nurtured within the classroom by differentiation of the curriculum. Additional support will be arranged as and when appropriate for individual needs.

Involving Specialists

Where a pupil continues to make less than expected progress, despite evidence-based support and interventions that are matched to the pupil's area of need, we will consider to begin involving specialists, including those secured by our school itself or from outside agencies. Our school may involve specialists at any point to advise them on early identification of SEND and effective support and interventions. We will always involve a specialist where a pupil continues to make little or no progress or where they continue to work at levels substantially below those expected of pupils of a similar age despite evidence-based SEND support delivered by appropriately trained staff. The pupil's parents will always be involved and consulted in any decision to involve specialists. The involvement of specialists and what was discussed or agreed will be recorded and shared with the parents and teaching staff supporting the child in the same way as other SEND support. Where our assessments have indicated that support from specialist services is required, it is important that children and young people receive it as quickly as possible. Joint commissioning arrangements will seek to ensure that there are sufficient services to meet the likely need in an area. The Local Offer will set out clearly what support is available from different services and how it may be accessed.

Pupil participation

In our school we encourage pupils to take responsibility and to make decisions. This is part of the culture of our school and relates to pupils of all ages. Pupils are involved at an appropriate level in setting targets in their IEPs and in the termly IEP review meetings. Pupils are encouraged to make judgements about their own performance against their IEP targets. We recognise success here as we do in any other aspect of school life.

Monitoring and evaluation

The SENDCo or SEND team leader supports teachers, where necessary, in drawing up IEPs for pupils. The SEND team hold meetings to review the work of the school in this area. The Headteacher reviews this policy annually and considers any amendments in the light of the annual review findings.

Staffing and resources

A range of teaching resources are used to enhance learning and memory. These include ICT facilities. Teachers are supported by the Teaching Assistant (TA).

Complaints

Parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the pupil's class teacher, SENDCo or the Headteacher.

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Disability Discrimination Act

The whole raison d'être of our school is whenever possible to provide for pupils who have a disability - albeit a hidden one - and to enable them to realise their potential. We would always consider admitting any pupil - 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.

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