

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy

The Winston Churchill School



Reviewed by	Governors
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Contents

1. Aims and objectives.....	3
2. Vision and values.....	3
3. Legislation and guidance.....	4
4. Inclusion and equal opportunities	4
5. Definitions	4
6. Roles and responsibilities	6
7. SEN information report	9
8. Our approach to SEND support.....	9
9. Expertise and training of staff	12
10. Links with external professional agencies	12
11. Admission and accessibility arrangements	12
12. Complaints about SEND provision	12
13. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements	12
14. Links with other policies and documents	13

1. Aims and objectives

Our special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy aims to:

- Ensure our school fully implements national legislation and guidance regarding students with SEND.
- Ensure the school:
 - Supports and make provision for students with special educational needs and disabilities.
 - Provides students with SEND access to all aspects of school life so they can engage in the activities of the school alongside students who do not have SEND.
 - Helps students with SEND fulfil their aspirations and achieve their best.
 - Helps students with SEND become confident individuals living fulfilling lives.
 - Helps students with SEND make a successful transition into adulthood.
 - Communicates with students with SEND and their parents or carers and involve them in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the student.
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for students with SEND.
- Communicate with, and involve, students with SEND and their parents or carers in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the student.
- Make sure the SEND policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff.

2. Vision and values

At The Winston Churchill School we believe that all students have the right to access and enjoy school life, regardless of any physical or learning disability. All students are expected to take advantage of the opportunities offered, to make progress at their own pace and reach their full potential. The SEND policy is intended to ensure consistency across the school and provide the highest standards of teaching and learning for all students.

Every member of The Winston Churchill School community, regardless of background:

- Undertakes the **RESPONSIBILITY** to learn effectively, in all situations, through positive engagement.
- Builds **RESPECTFUL** relationships, empowering everyone to achieve their personal ambitions.
- Is **READY** and equipped to access the diverse range of inclusive opportunities.
- Contributes to the local, national, and global community.

At The Winston Churchill School we aim to work together with outside agencies, teachers, parents, and students to achieve equality of opportunity.

As members of the Winston Churchill School community...

- **We know how we feel**
- **We appreciate our impact on others**
- **We develop positive core moral values**
- **We all share academic success**
- **We embrace opportunities**
- **We understand how to improve**
- **We apply our strengths appropriately**
- **We are active and responsible citizens.**

3. Legislation and guidance

This is based on the statutory [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#) and the following legislation:

- [Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which sets out schools' responsibilities for students with SEND.
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SENCOs and the special educational needs (SEN) information report.
- The [Equality Act 2010](#) (section 20), which sets out the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities.
- The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes having a disability) and those who don't share it.
- The [Governance Handbook](#), which sets out governors' responsibilities for students with SEND.
- The [School Admissions Code](#), which sets out the school's obligation to admit all students whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and its duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special educational needs.

4. Inclusion and equal opportunities

At The Winston Churchill School we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all students, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced, and challenging curriculum. We are committed to offering all students the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations.

We will achieve this by making reasonable adjustments to teaching, learning and the curriculum to ensure that students with SEND have access to all aspects of school life.

5. Definitions

5.1 Special educational needs

A student has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special/specific adjustments/strategies to be made for them.

They have a **learning difficulty or disability** if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age, or
- A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.

Special educational provision is educational strategies to support learning that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

5.2 Disability

Students are considered to have a **disability** if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

The school will make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

5.3 The 4 areas of need

The needs of students with SEND are grouped into four broad areas. Students can have needs that cut across more than one area, and their needs may change over time.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the student's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	<p>Students with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or do not understand or use the social rules of communication.</p> <p>Students who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.</p>
Cognition and learning	<p>Students with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers. A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific learning difficulties, which impact one or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia, and developmental coordination disorder (DCD).• Moderate learning difficulties• Severe learning difficulties• Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where students are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment
Social, emotional and mental health	<p>These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Students may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder.• Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.• Suffered adverse childhood experiences. <p>These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the student becoming withdrawn or isolated.</p>

AREA OF NEED	
Sensory and/or physical	<p>Students with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided.</p> <p>Students may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment. • A physical impairment. <p>These students may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.</p>

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The SENCO

The SENCO at our school is Rachel Berry, Fiona Francis is a Deputy SENCo/Primary Specialist and Janet Sigrist oversees the Learning Support Department as Assistant Headteacher.

They will:

- Inform any parents that their child may have SEN and then liaise with them about the student's needs and any provision made.
- Work with the headteacher and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school.
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual students with SEN, including those who have EHC plans.
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that students with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching.
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual students.
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet students' needs effectively.
- Be a point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to ensure that appropriate provision is provided.
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to make sure that the student and their parents are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned.
- When a student moves to a different school or institution: Make sure that all relevant information about a student's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution in a timely manner.
- Work with the headteacher and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- Make sure the school keeps its records of all students with SEND up to date and accurate.
- With the headteacher, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer.
- Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy.

- With the headteacher and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching.

6.2 The governing body

The governing body is responsible for making sure the following duties are carried out, though the duties can be delegated to a committee or an individual who ensures that the school:

- Co-operates with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and developing the local offer.
- Makes sure that students with SEND have the opportunity to engage in the activities of the school alongside students who don't have SEND.
- Makes sure that the school has arrangements in place to support, when appropriate, students with medical conditions, within the scope of a mainstream school.
- Provides access to a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Has a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND.
- Provides an annual report for parents on their child's progress.
- Records accurately and keep up to date the provision made for students with SEND.
- Publishes information on the school website about how the school is implementing its SEND policy, in a SEN information report.
- Publishes information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and the school's accessibility plans.
- Makes sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENCO for the school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out.
- Monitors their approach to using their resources to support the progress of students with SEND.
- Make sures that all students from year 8 until year 11 are provided with independent careers advice.

6.3 The SEND link governor

The SEND governor will:

- Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at governing body meetings.
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within the school and update the governing body on this.
- Work with the headteacher and SENCo to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school.

6.4 The headteacher

The headteacher will:

- Work with the SENCO and SEND link governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school.
- Work with the SENCO and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for students with SEND, and their progress.
- Have responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEND budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual students.
- Make sure that the SENCO has enough time to carry out their duties.
- Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of students on the SEND register.
- With the SENCO, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer.
- With the SENCO and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching.

6.5 Subject teachers

Each subject teacher is responsible for:

- Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is differentiated to meet student needs through a graduated approach.
- The progress and development of every student in their class.
- Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching.
- Working with the SENCO to review each student's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision.
- Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report.

6.6 Parents or carers

Parents or carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development.

Parents or carers of a student on the SEND register will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about the student's SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. They will be:

- Given the opportunity to share their concerns and, with school staff, agree their aspirations for the student.
- Given an annual report on the student's progress.

The school will take into account the views of the parent or carer in any decisions made about the student.

6.7 The student

Students will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. This might involve the student:

- Explaining what their strengths and difficulties are
- Contributing to setting targets or outcomes
- Attending review meetings
- Giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions

The student's views will be taken into account in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.

7. SEN information report

The school publishes a SEN information report on its website, which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school.

The information report will be updated annually and as soon as possible after any changes to the information it contains.

8. Our approach to SEND support

8.1 Identifying students with SEND and assessing their needs

We will assess each student's current skills and levels of attainment when they start at the school. This will build on information from previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. We will also consider any evidence that the student may have a disability and if so, what reasonable adjustments the school may need to make.

Subject teachers will regularly assess the progress of all students and identify any whose progress:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline.
- Fails to match or better their previous rate of progress.
- Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers.
- Widens the attainment gap.

This may include progress in areas other than attainment, for example, wider development or social needs.

When teachers identify an area where a student is making slow progress, they will target the student's area of weakness with differentiated, high-quality teaching. If progress does not improve, the teacher will raise the issue with the SENCo via our internal referral system which will initiate an investigation about whether this lack of progress may be due to a special educational need.

The SENCo will also refer to this student in the regular meetings with the Year Leader, who retains an overview of each student and monitors the progress of all students. Where necessary they will, in consultation with the student's parents or carers, consider consulting an external specialist.

Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a student is recorded as having SEN.

Potential short-term causes of impact on behaviour or performance will be considered, such as bullying or bereavement. Staff will also take particular care in identifying and assessing SEN for students whose first language is not English.

When deciding whether the student needs special educational provision, we will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the student and their parents. We will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether we can provide it by adapting our core offer, or whether something different or additional is needed.

If a student is joining the school, and:

- Their previous setting has already identified that they have SEN
- They are known to external agencies
- They have an education, health and care plan (EHCP)

then the school will work in a multi-agency way to make sure we get relevant information before the student starts at school, so support can be put in place as early as possible.

8.2 Consulting and involving students and parents

The school will put the student and their parents at the heart of all decisions made about special educational provision.

When we are aiming to identify whether a student needs special education provision, we will have an early discussion with the student and their parents. These conversations will aim to ensure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the student's areas of strength and difficulty.
- We take into account any concerns the parents have.
- Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child.
- Everyone is clear on what the next steps are.

We will formally notify parents if it is decided that a student will receive special educational provision.

8.3 The graduated approach to SEN support

Once a student is suspected of having SEN, the school will make reasonable adjustments and put in place specific strategies to try to reduce the impact of barriers, while supporting the student to learn how to manage their learning needs. This support will be delivered through successive rounds of a 4-part cycle known as the graduated approach.

1. Assess (explore)

The SENCo, in consultation with teaching staff will carry out an analysis of the student's needs. The views of the student and their parents will be taken into account. The school may also seek advice from external support services.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly to help make sure that the support in place is matched to the student's need. For many students, the most reliable way to identify needs is to observe the way they respond to an intervention.

2. Plan

The SENCo, in consultation with parents and the student, will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a date for review. Sufficient time must be permitted to assess if the strategies and interventions are having an impact.

All staff who work with the student will be made aware of the student's needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are needed. This information will be recorded on our management information system, Edukey, and will be made accessible to staff in a one-page profile and/or MyPlan.

Parents will be fully aware of the planned support and interventions and will be asked to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

3. Do

The student's class or subject teacher retains overall responsibility for their progress.

Where the plan involves group or 1-to-1 teaching away from the main class or subject teacher, they still retain responsibility for the student. They will work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.

The SENCO will support the teacher in further assessing the student's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on how to implement support effectively.

4. Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the student's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

We will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. This evaluation will be based on:

- The views of the parents and students
- The level of progress the student has made towards their outcomes
- The views of teaching staff who work with the student

The SENCO, in consultation with teaching staff, the student and their parents will revise the outcomes and support in light of the student's progress and development.

8.4 Levels of support

School-based SEN provision

Students receiving SEN support will be placed on the school's SEND register. These students have needs that can be met by the school through the graduated approach. Where the student's needs cannot be adequately met with in-house expertise, staff will consider involving an external specialist and the impact that this could have. Should a referral be considered appropriate then there has to be recognition that the school does not control the availability and timing of appointments.

The provision for these students is funded through the school's notional SEND budget.

On the census these students will be marked with the code K.

Education, health and care (EHC) plan

Students who need more support than is available through the school's school-based SEN provision may be entitled to an EHC plan. The plan is a legal document that describes the needs of the student, the provision that will be put in place, and the outcomes sought.

The provision for these students will be funded from the school's notional SEND budget, and potentially from the LA (from the high-level needs funding block of the dedicated schools grant). On the census these students will be marked with the code E.

8.5 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for students with SEN by:

- Tracking students' progress towards their FFT20, including by using provision maps.
- Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support.
- Using student voice.
- Monitoring by the SENCO.
- Holding annual reviews for students with EHC plans.
- Getting feedback from the student and their parents.

9. Expertise and training of staff

Training will regularly be provided to teaching and support staff. The headteacher and the SENCO will continuously monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.

10. Links with external professional agencies

The school recognises that it won't be able to meet all the needs of every student. Whenever necessary the school will work with external support services such as:

- Speech and language therapists
- Specialist teachers or support services
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- General practitioners or paediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Inclusion officers
- Social services

It should be noted that the school does not manage the thresholds for acceptance or the appointments or waiting lists of these external agencies.

11. Admission and accessibility arrangements

- Please refer to Admission Criteria for current year:
[Admissions Criteria 2024-25](#) or [Admission Criteria 2025-26](#)
- Please refer Access Plan Policy:
[Access Plan Policy](#)

12. Concerns/ complaints about SEND provision

- Please refer to policy for parental concerns and complaints:
- [Policy for concerns and complaints](#)

The Annual Review of EHCP process provides a forum for parents to express any concerns. Parents can also contact the SENCo at any other time to discuss matters relating to the provision made for their child's Special Educational Needs.

13. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

13.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND policy. We will do this by evaluating whether or not we are meeting our objectives set out in section one.

We will evaluate how effective our SEND provision is with regards to:

- All staff's awareness of students with SEND
- How early students are identified as having SEND
- Students' progress and attainment once they have been identified as having SEND
- Whether students with SEND feel safe, valued and included in the school community
- Comments and feedback from students and their parents

13.2 Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by the SENDCo **every year**. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

It will be approved by the full governing board.

14. Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to the following documents:

- SEN information report
- The local offer
- Accessibility plan
- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Attendance policy
- Safeguarding / child protection policy
- Complaints policy
- Curriculum policy
- Examinations policy
- Teaching and Learning policy