



Strood Academy

Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

Academic year 2024/25

Date of issue	September 2024
Date to be revised	August 2025

Strood Academy is committed to providing an inclusive and high-quality education for all children, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This policy is written in accordance with the following up-to-date legislation:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- SEN Code of Practice 2015
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 (SI 2014 1530)
- Part 3 Duties on Schools – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (Schedule 1 regulation 51)
- Information to be included in the SEN information report (Schedule 2 regulation 53)
- Equality Act 2010
- Schools Admissions Code (DfE, 1 Feb 2012)
- The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012 1124)
- The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (SI 2013 758)

Definition of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

A child of compulsory age or young person has special educational needs (SEN) if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child or young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions. *SEN Code of Practice (2015, p 15)*

Special educational provision means educational provision which is additional to, or otherwise different from, the educational provision made generally for children of their age in schools maintained by the LA.

A child or young person has a disability under the Equality Act (2010) that is ‘a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term (a year or more) and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’. This definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing and long term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer. Where a disabled child or young person requires special educational provision, they will also be covered by the SEND definition. *SEN Code of Practice (2015, p16)*

Aims of the Policy for Special Educational Needs and Disability:

- At the Strood Academy, we value all children equally
- We welcome children with special educational needs as part of our community and we ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to engage in the curriculum
- We are committed to improving outcomes through high aspirations and expectations for children and young people with SEN
- We recognise that some children need additional support to ensure access to the whole curriculum whilst in mainstream classes.
- We ensure that the needs of children are identified and assessed and that appropriate support strategies are provided. If additional specialist advice and support is necessary, the appropriate external agencies will be contacted
- We recognise the importance of early identification and assessment of children with special educational needs. We will listen to and address any concerns raised by children and young people themselves. Additionally, parents know their child best and it is important that we listen and understand when parents express concerns about their child's development.
- We are committed to effective collaboration between all agencies working with a child and a multi-disciplinary approach to meeting children's special educational needs. We will actively support the establishment and maintenance of close links with all agencies working with the child
- Every teacher is a teacher of every child or young person including those with SEN

The name of the person who is responsible for co-ordinating the day-to-day provision of education for children with special educational needs and disability

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)	Miss Chantay White Mrs Kerrie Ward
Senior Leadership Team responsible for Special Educational Needs	Miss Carter and Miss Lindsay
Governor for Special Educational Need and Disability	Hazel Sellwood

The arrangements which have been made for coordinating the provision of education for children and young people with special educational needs and disability

The key responsibilities of the SENCo include:

- overseeing the day –to-day operation of the school's SEND policy
- coordinating provision for children with SEN, including those who have Education and Health Care (EHC) plans

- liaising with the relevant designated teacher where a looked after student has SEND
- advising on the graduated approach to providing SEN support
- advising on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet students' needs effectively
- liaising and working closely with parents/carers of students with SEN
- liaising with other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals and independent or voluntary bodies
- being a key point of contact with external agencies, especially the local authority and its support services
- liaising with potential next providers of education to ensure a student and their parents/carers are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned
- working with the Principal and school governors to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- ensuring that the Academy keeps the records of all students with SEN up to date
- providing professional guidance and training opportunities to colleagues

Identifying Special Educational Needs.

Strood Academy has a robust process for identifying SEND, including:

- Collaboration with feeder schools to gather information on students with SEND during transitions.
- Regular assessments of progress for all students by subject teachers.
- Following the graduated approach as outlined in the SEN Code of Practice (2015).

When there has been no prior SEND need identified:

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all students in their class.

Subject teachers, supported by Faculty Leaders and the Senior Leadership Team make regular assessments of progress for all students. These assist in identifying students making less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances.

The SEN Code of Practice (2015,pg 95 - 6.17) states, 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

The first response to such progress will be high quality teaching targeted at the student's areas of weakness, reasonable adjustments is the first step in responding to students who have or may have SEN.

Where progress continues to be less than expected, by following the graduated approach, collaboration between the SENCo, teachers, students and their parents/carers will address areas of concern to support and allow students to meet their full potential.

SEND Support – A graduated approach

Where a student has been identified, action will be taken to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. The SEN support will take the form of a four-part cycle (the graduated approach), through which earlier decisions and actions are re-visited, 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.

The graduated approach consists of the following actions:

Assess: The subject teacher, form tutor, and other teaching staff from different departments, are involved in an analysis of the student needs, including:

- teacher's assessment and experiences of the student
- previous progress and attainment
- individual development in comparison to peers and national data
- the views and experiences of parents
- the student's own views
- advice from external support services or professionals from social and health services, where appropriate

Plan: When providing a student with SEN support:

- the parents/carers will be formally notified.
- The teacher (and in some cases the SENCO) will agree, in consultation with the parents/carers and students, the adjustments, interventions and support to be put into place, as well as the expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, with date for review.
- All teachers and support staff who work with the student will be made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required.

Do: Interventions will begin. Interventions will run for a timely period and will then be reviewed by all stakeholders.

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

- The impact and quality of the support and interventions will be evaluated along with the views of the student and their parents/carers.
- The subject teacher, working with the SENCo, student and parents/carers, will revise the support in light of the student's progress and development or removal from the SEN register.
- Where a student has a EHC plan, the review process will occur during the annual review meeting.

For higher levels of need, the Academy will draw on more specialised assessments and guidance from external agencies and professionals such as the Educational Psychology Service, NELFT - Medway Young Persons' Wellbeing Service, Medway Physical and Sensory Service (PASS), Medway Autism Outreach, Bradfields Outreach, Learning Support Services, School Health and therapists (including Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists).

Requesting an Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment

Where, despite the Academy having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the SEN of the child or young person, the child or young person has not made expected progress, the Academy, parents/carers or young people (over the age of 16) should consider requesting an Education, Health and Care (EHCp) needs assessment.

To inform its decision, the local authority will expect to see an evaluated School Based Support Plan that has been in place for at least 4 terms, which incorporates the Graduated Approach.

Transitions between educational settings.

The Academy has a robust transition process, where they collaborate with all feeder schools to gather information on students with SEN. This includes;

- Primary transitional meeting for all students
- Transitional Annual review
- In School Reviews
- Summer school
- Safeguarding concerns
- Post 16

These early collaborative partnerships enable staff at the Academy to gather a holistic view of the child, plan personalised interventions, recommend appropriate College and peer groupings and ultimately develop productive relationships with the children and their families.

Supporting Staff -Training

In order to maintain and develop the quality of teaching and provision to respond to the strengths and needs of all students, the Academy has a robust training programme for all staff. This includes:

- All teaching and support staff undertake induction, which includes training around the Academy's systems and structures the schools SEND provision.
- Whole school training on covering the four broad areas of need.
- Professional Meetings with specific teaching staff to highlight an individual's needs and cascade bespoke strategies of support.
- Performance Management
- LAT Teach Programme
- SENCo regularly attends network meetings within Leigh Academies Trust, as well as the Local Authority and local support groups.
- Fortis Trust Training
- Specific intervention training for example Lego Therapy or ELSA for example.

Accessibility and support for students with medical conditions

Strood Academy recognises that students with SEN or medical conditions, should be appropriately supported to ensure they have full access to education, including after school clubs, cultural activities, school trips and Physical Education.

Children and young people with a medical condition will have an individual medical care plan, which is shared with all Academy staff.

Some children with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case, the Academy will comply with its duties under the Equality Act (2010). Strood Academy is fully accessible for disabled students. Strood Academy has qualified first-aiders across the school.

Complaints Procedure

Any concerns or complaints regarding SEN provision, should be initially addressed to the SENCo, who will respond by meeting with the parents/carers. If unresolved, then the complaint should be passed to the member of the Senior Leadership team responsible for overseeing SEN and a link to Strood Academies complaint policy can be found on the website.

Admissions

Strood Academy's admissions arrangements comply with the Equality Act (2010) and do not discriminate against disabled children or those with SEND.

Parental Contributions

In response to a growing number of queries from parents and charities relating to parental contributions for the employment of TAs/LSAs, we thought it would be useful to set out the Trust position and provide you with a document you can use for your academy [here](#) (please make a copy or use the text to personalise to your academy).

This will also be attached to the Trust's SEND policy as an addendum to outline the Trust's position on this matter which is as follows:

*'The Trust **will not** accept parental contributions for the purpose of directly funding teaching assistant positions.'* The reasons for this are clearly set out in the attached document.

Conclusion

Strood Academy is committed to providing a supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students, including those with SEND. This policy outlines the Academy's approach to identifying, assessing, and supporting students with SEND.