



# SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS POLICY

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Date approved by the Trust Board	
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## Introduction

The Leading Edge Academies Partnership (the 'Trust') is a team of academy leaders that aim to be Leading Edge and pioneering in their approach to education and well-being. We are a growing family of like-minded academies that offer a values-based education to the communities we serve and welcome staff, workers, students, parents/carers and volunteers from all different ethnic groups and backgrounds.

The term 'Trust Community' includes all staff, trustees, governors, students, parents/carers, volunteers and visitors.

We are a values-based Trust, which means all actions are guided by our six 'Es' as follows:

- **Ethical** – 'Doing the right thing'
- **Excellence** – 'Outstanding quality'
- **Equity** – 'Fairness and social justice'
- **Empathy** – 'Caring for others'
- **Evolution** – 'Continuous change'
- **Endurance** – 'Working hard and not giving up'

This policy is based on the value of ' <b>Endurance</b> '
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## Related policies

This Special Educational Needs Policy is consistent with all Trust policies, including:

- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Accessibility Policy
- Examination Policy
- Data Protection Policy

## Policy Statement

This policy is compliant and written using the following recommended government policies and acts:

- Section 69 of the Children and Families Act 2014
- Paragraph 3 of schedule 10 to the Equality Act 2010
- Regulation 51 and schedule 1 to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, where appropriate
- Section 6 of the Special educational needs and disabilities code of practice: 0 to 25 years.
- Teachers' Standards 2012

This policy has been written in order to ensure good practice within the Trust, to ensure there is an understanding of the duty of the academies and all staff in their responsibilities to deliver a high-quality provision to the meet the needs of children and young people with SEND. The Trust believes every child should have the opportunity and support to reach their full potential. Our Trust academies are fully inclusive and will do their best to ensure that necessary provision is made for any child or young person with special educational needs in the best interest of the child within reasonable financial constraints.

## Aims

- Ensure every child has a transition that ensures the best possible start in our academies.
- Ensure children with additional needs receive a quality education and can join in the activities of

the academy together with students without special educational needs, so far as reasonably practical and compatible with the students who do not have special educational needs.

- Ensure parent/carer and child voice is heard where concerns are raised
- Ensure a robust identification and support mechanism within each academy.

## **Responsible Persons**

The Trustee for SEND is: Gary Anderson

The Trust SENDCos are:

Vikki Rolls, MAT Executive SENDCo

Julie Payne, SENDCo, Mounts Bay Academy

Michelle Brant, SENDCo, St Hilary School

*At St Hilary School the SEN Governor is Mrs Jo Atkinson.*

*Please also refer to St Hilary School's SEN Information Report for the day to day provision which St Hilary School offers.*

Responsibility for the day-to-day running, administration and co-ordination of SEND lies with the academy based SENDCo.

The key responsibilities of the SENDCo include (6.90):

- overseeing the day-to-day operation of the academy's SEN policy
- co-ordinating provision for children with SEN
- liaising with the relevant Designated Teacher where a looked after pupil has SEN
- advising on the graduated approach to providing SEN support
- advising on the deployment of the academy's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- liaising with parents of pupils with SEN
- liaising with early years providers, other academies, 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 pupil and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned
- working with the head teacher and academy governors to ensure that the academy 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 pupils with SEN up to date

## **Policy Procedures**

The voice of the parent/carer and child is a vital part for any process when supporting Special Educational Needs and is embedded in every part of this policy.

### **Admission and Inclusion**

Under section 5 of the Teachers' Standards 2012, all teachers have a responsibility to adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils, and as such, all academies within the Trust adopt a whole academy approach to special educational needs which involves all staff adhering to a model of good practice.

The academies operate an equal opportunities policy for children with special educational needs who are afforded the same rights as other children. This includes children with Education, Health and Care

Plans, those identified as being on the Record of Educational Need and others with less significant need.

Admissions arrangements for most children will be through the usual admissions procedure as set out in our Admissions Policy and by Cornwall Council. Where a child has an EHCP, Cornwall Council SEND Department manage this process in close consultation with the family and academy.

### **Transition**

Transition from/to a new setting can be an unsettling time for any child. Where a child has identified special educational needs, the Code of Practice clearly sets out the need to support this process. Our academies have close links with colleagues to ensure this process is carefully managed to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. Where appropriate, SENDCos and other staff will liaise with appropriate professionals. Parents/Carers and the child are encouraged to participate and support throughout this process.

### **Identification**

Identification of a special educational need can be made at any point through the educational career of a child. It is the responsibility of all staff to raise concerns around a possible special educational need to the designated academy SENDCo. The SENDCo will always liaise closely with the parent/carer and child. The board, main four areas of identification are:

1. **Communication and Interaction** (SLCN – Speech, language and communication) – this includes children with speech and language delay, impairments or disorders, difficulties with language, communication and imagination and those who demonstrate features within the autism spectrum.
2. **Cognition and Learning** - this includes children who demonstrate features of moderate, severe or profound learning difficulties or specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.
3. **Social, Emotional and Mental Health** (SEMH) - this includes children who may be withdrawn or isolated, disruptive or disturbing, hyperactive or lack of concentration.
4. **Sensory and/or Physical Needs** – this includes children with sensory (visual (VI), hearing impairment (HI), multi-sensory impairment (MSI) or physical difficulties (PD).

Where a concern is raised the Graduated Approach will be applied:

### **Assess**

This involves clearly analysing the child's needs using the class teacher's assessment and experience of working with the pupil, details of previous progress and attainment, comparisons with peers and national data, as well as the views and experience of parents. The child's views and where relevant, advice from external support services will also be considered. Any parental concerns will be noted and compared with the academy's information and assessment data on how the child is progressing.

This analysis will require regular review to ensure that support and intervention is matched to need, that barriers to learning are clearly identified and being overcome and that the interventions being used are developing and evolving as required. Where external support staff are already involved, their work will help inform the assessment of need. Where they are not involved they may be contacted, if this is felt to be appropriate, following discussion and agreement from parents.

### **Plan**

Planning will involve consultation between the teacher/s, SENCO and parents to agree the adjustments, interventions and support required; the impact on progress, development and or behaviour that is expected and a clear date for review. These discussions will take place once per term and would usually be led by the teacher with support from the SENDCo, if required. Strategies and targets will be recorded within the plan.

All those working with the child, including support staff, will have access to the relevant paperwork in

order to support the child.

## **Do**

The class teacher/s remain(s) responsible for working with the child on a day-to-day basis. The class/subject teacher should still retain responsibility for the child, even where the intervention involves group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class. They will work closely with teaching assistants to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions. Support with further assessment of the pupil's strengths and weaknesses, problem solving and advising of the implementation of effective support will be provided by the SENDCo.

## **Review**

Reviews of a child's progress will be made regularly. The review process will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. It will also take account of the views of the child and where necessary their parents. The class teacher/tutor, in conjunction with the SENDCo will revise the support and outcomes based on the pupil's progress and development, making any necessary amendments going forward in consultation with parents and the child.

## **SEND Support**

Where a child is identified as having SEND and requiring additional provision above that of Wave 1 classroom provision, they will be placed on SEND Support and added to the academy Record of Need. Children at this level should be regularly reviewed through the Graduated Approach.

### **Referral for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**

If a child has lifelong or significant difficulties, they may undergo a Statutory Assessment Process which is usually requested by the academy but can be requested by a parent. This will occur where the complexity of need or a lack of clarity around the needs of the child are such that a multi-agency approach to assessing that need, to planning provision and identifying resources, is required.

The decision to make a referral for an EHCP will be taken at a progress review.

The application for an EHCP will combine information from a variety of sources including:

- Parents
- Teachers
- SENCO
- Social Care
- Health and Specialist Educational professionals

Information will be gathered relating to the current provision provided, action points that have been taken and the preliminary outcomes of targets set. This paperwork is collated by the academy and referred to the Cornwall County SEND Panel. A decision will be made by the panel, which includes people from education, health and social care, about whether or not the child is eligible for an EHCP. This panel will decide whether or not to proceed with a Stage 2 Assessment, which results in a draft plan. This draft plan then goes before the panel to decide whether an EHCP is issued. Parents have the right to appeal against a decision not to initiate a statutory assessment leading to an EHCP.

Further information about EHC Plans can found via the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Family Information Service:

<http://www.cornwallfisdirectory.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/fsd/site.page?id=jzitUdWEmsg> or by speaking to the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Family Information Service on: 01872 323 535.

### **Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)**

- a) Following Statutory Assessment, an EHCP will be provided by Cornwall Council, if it is decided that the child's needs are not being met by the support that is ordinarily available. The academy

and the child's parents will be involved in developing and producing the plan.

- b) Parents have the right to appeal against the content of the EHCP. They may also appeal against the academy named in the Plan if it differs from their preferred choice.
- c) Once the EHCP has been completed and agreed, it will be kept as part of the pupil's formal record and reviewed at least annually by staff, parents and the pupil. The annual review enables provision for the pupil to be evaluated and, where appropriate, for changes to be put in place, for example, reducing or increasing levels of support.

### **Provision for pupils with SEND**

Every academy has a duty to make arrangements to support pupils with a range of additional needs to prevent them being treated less favourably than other pupils. Inclusion is a key ethos of the Trust and each academy. This is regularly reviewed to ensure all academies promote the inclusion of all students. This includes learning outside the classroom.

Each academy makes these arrangements individually according to their site, with the support of the MAT Executive SENDCo where appropriate. These provisions will be detailed in the individual academy information report. Each academy, with the support of the Trust, will work closely with the relevant professionals to ensure a pupil's needs can be met during the transition period. Where appropriate, academies will seek advice from external support services as required.

All pupils with medical conditions will be supported with healthcare plans by the individual academy.

### **Local Offer**

Due to the variety of academies within the Trust and in accordance with requirements, each academy will publish a 'Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Report' outlining the Local Offer. This outlines how each academy provides Wave 1, 2 and 3 provision as necessary. In addition, Cornwall County Council has further information around their Local Offer that can be accessed through the following:

<https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/localoffer.page?newlocalofferchannel=0>

### **Complaints Procedure**

Where parents believe their child's needs are not being met within the academy, parents should refer to the SENDCo in the first instance. IF they feel they have continued concerns, the parent should ask for a meeting with the Principal. Should parents feel they continue to have concern, parents should refer to the individual academy's Complaints Procedure or Trust Complaints Policy.