



Meadowdale Academy **Special Educational Needs and Disability** **(SEND) Policy**

Meadowdale Academy SEND Beliefs and Values

- Meadowdale Academy has an inclusive ethos with high expectations for all children.
- We recognise the individuality of each pupil and strive to provide a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum which raises the standard of each of the pupils we teach, and supports the principles of an inclusive education service.
- All children have the ability to learn and progress and we work to provide an environment where all children are valued, their potential nurtured and their achievements celebrated.
- Provision for children with SEND is the responsibility of the whole school and we expect every member of staff accepts and embraces this responsibility.
- Class and subject teachers are responsible for the teaching, learning and progress of all pupils in their class, including those with SEND and who are also supported by specialist staff.
- We recognise the need to work in partnership with parents and value the contribution parents make to their child's education and well being. Children also regularly contribute their views on the provision provided.
- Every child is valued regardless of race, culture or religious beliefs and whatever their abilities or needs.
- We recognise the need to work in partnership with outside agencies and value the contributions they can offer us.

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SEND Policy

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SEND Policy

Introduction

Meadowdale Academy promotes high standards and all pupils, regardless of their particular needs, are offered inclusive teaching, which enables them to make the best possible progress and develop as valued members of our school community.

We offer a range of provision to support children with a variety of needs including; communication and interaction, cognition and learning difficulties, social, mental and health problems or sensory or physical needs. We have high expectations of all children and staff and we believe that it is the entitlement of all children to have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

COMPLIANCE

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (July 2014) and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- Equality Act 201: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013
- SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (July 2014)
- Schools SEN Information Report Regulations (2014)
- Statutory Guidance on Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (April 2014)
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teachers Standards 2012

The main changes from the SEN Code of Practice (2001) are as follows:

- ✓ Now covers 0-25 year olds and includes guidance relating to disabled children and young people as well as those with SEN
- ✓ Focuses on the participation of parents, children and young people (CYP) in decision making
- ✓ Focuses on high aspirations and improving outcomes for children
- ✓ Gives guidance on joint planning and commissioning to ensure close cooperation between education, health and social care.
- ✓ Gives guidance on publishing Local Offer for support
- ✓ Gives guidance for education on a graduated approach to identifying and supporting CYP with single Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support - replacing School Action and School Action Plus
- ✓ For children with more complex needs a coordinated assessment process and the new 0-25 Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan) replace statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs)
- ✓ There is a greater focus on support that enables those with SEN to succeed in their education and make a successful transition to adulthood

Definition of 'SEND'

The Special Education and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 years (2014) states:

Xiii A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

Xiv A child of compulsory school age or a 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

The definition of disability in the Equality Act (2010) states children with '...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term (more than 12 months) and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'. This includes children with sensory impairments as well as long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

It also states that schools must make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services, to ensure that disabled children and young people are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

Broad Areas of Need (See Appendix 1)

There are four broad areas of need:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs

When children are assessed and identified with SEND, we ensure that their needs are met and additional support is given where required, either within school or in collaboration with specialist external agencies. Children with SEN are taught and managed sensitively with a view to promoting their inclusion in all school activities as far as this can be reasonably arranged as well as promoting independence.

- All children have access to a challenging curriculum, which is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated.

When additional specialist advice and support, beyond what is offered in school, is necessary, we contact the appropriate external agencies and work closely with them to promote the child's well being and development. Our Local Offer provides further information about the agencies we work with.

Identification of 'SEN'

A key principle under the Code is that there should be no delay in making any necessary SEN provision in early years as delay at this stage can give rise to learning difficulty and subsequently to loss of self-esteem, frustration in learning and to behaviour difficulties. The Code states that:

“Early action to address identified needs is critical to the future progress and improved outcomes that are essential in helping the child to prepare for adult life”.

Some children arrive at Meadowdale Academy with identified SEN, in which case the Head of Year 5 and SENCO will liaise with the previous school or setting to ensure there is a smooth transition and continuity of provision.

If, during a child's time at Meadowdale Academy, teachers have concerns about pupil progress or attainment, parents will be contacted to discuss these concerns so they can share their views. There is a period of monitoring and review, including an analysis of the child's progress compared with peers, national data and expectations of progress. Following this, and in consultation with all relevant staff at school the child (if appropriate) and the child's parents, a child may be identified as having SEN and appropriate provision will be made.

If parents have any concerns about their child they should contact their class teacher in the first instance. Alternatively, they may make an appointment to see the SENCO or the Head teacher.

Many children may be subject to this period of monitoring and review for a short time, receiving time-limited and targeted interventions until they have progressed sufficiently to work at age-related expectations.

SEN Support

Where a child is identified as having SEN we work in partnership with parents to establish the support the child needs. Once a child's needs have been discussed by relevant parties they are recorded and decisions made about the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment for that child. The views and wishes of the child and their parents are central to these discussions.

An Intervention and Support Plan is written. This is aimed at removing barriers to learning and putting effective special provision in place that is implemented and reviewed termly.

A Graduated Approach

At Meadowdale Academy we take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This takes the form of a graduated approach with four stages of action: assess, plan, do and review this means that earlier discussions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and what supports them in making good progress.

- **Assess** - in identifying a pupil as needing SEN support, the class teacher, working with the SENCO, the pupil, and parents, carries out an analysis of the pupil's needs. We take seriously any concerns raised by a parent. This assessment draws on the teacher's assessment and experience of the pupil, their previous progress and attainment, as well as any other available information. In some cases, outside professionals from health or social services may already be involved with the pupil. With the agreement of the parents, these professionals should liaise with the school to help inform the assessments.
- **Plan** - Where it is decided to provide additional / SEN support, and having notified the parents, the class teacher, head of year and the SENCO agree, in consultation with the parent, the desired outcomes. Interventions or support are put in place. The expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, and a date for review recorded. All teachers and support staff who work with the pupil are made aware of their needs and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required, if appropriate, parental involvement may be may used to reinforce progress at home.
- **Do** - The class and subject teachers remain responsible for working with the pupil on a daily basis. With support from the Head of Year and SENCO, they oversee the implementation of the interventions or programmes agreed as part of additional / SEN support. Where the interventions involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class teacher, they should still retain responsibility for the pupil. The SENCO supports teachers in assessing the impact of the action taken.
- **Review** - The effectiveness, impact and quality of the support / interventions is reviewed, in line with the agreed date, by the class or subject teacher, head of year and SENCO, taking into account the pupil's parents and the pupil's views. This feeds back into the analysis of the pupil's needs. Support is revised in light of the pupil's progress and development. Parents are given clear information about the impact of the support and interventions provided, enabling them to be involved in planning the next steps.

This cycle of action is revisited

Where a pupil has an EHC plan, the local authority will review that plan every year. We will liaise with the Local Authority in the review process and hold annual meetings on their behalf.

Meadowdale Academy's graduated approach to SEN

Level 1:

Quality First Teaching (QFT)

Children receive inclusive quality first teaching (QFT) which may include the provision of differentiated classwork. Some children at this level may be on a monitoring list, their progress being carefully tracked and reviewed.

Level 2:

Additional School Intervention

Continued or increase concern may lead to children receiving additional, time-limited and targeted interventions to accelerate their progress to age-related expectations. These interventions may involve group or one-to-one teaching. The SENCO, head of year and class teachers will work closely with any support staff to plan and assess the impact of the support and interventions and to link them to classroom teaching. At this stage children from other agencies may be sought.

Level 3:

High Need

Where a child continues to make less than expected progress, despite interventions, they receive highly personalised interventions to accelerate their progress and enable them to achieve their potential. When appropriate, specialist outside agency support this. The SENCO, head of year and class teachers work with specialists to select effective teaching approaches, appropriate equipment, strategies and interventions in order to support the child's progress. If support is not impacting on the child's progress and this is still of significant concern, the school, after consultation with parents and other professionals, will request an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment from the Local Authority. Parents can also request an EHC Needs Assessment.

How do we support Pupils with needs in specific areas?

Specific Learning Difficulty (SPLD)	Specific programs of intervention are delivered by our intervention teacher or LSAs for those pupils who have English and maths difficulties. These include Lexia, Read Write Inc, Totem, Talisman, and Maths Whizz. Progress is assessed and monitored regularly.
Physical Disability	Some pupils may require a specific exercise program to be carried out at school and at home in conjunction with professionals from Occupational Therapy services. We have a member of staff designated to follow such advice. We also deliver sessions to develop gross and fine motor skills.
Visual Impairment (VI)	If needed we would receive support from the Visual Impairment Service who advise on the relevant resources needed and check progress of any pupils with VI.
Hearing Impairment (HI)	When needed we receive support from the Hearing Impairment Service to advise us of support required and train us on equipment use.
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)	The Behaviour Support Service provide advice and support. All staff have received ASD training and we have specific LSAs who offer a wealth of experience to deliver the best support to these pupils.
Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs (SEMH)	We would utilise support from CYPS, School Health and the Behaviour Support Service, if required. We have a nurture group each break and lunch time as well as before school. Each class has weekly mindfulness sessions. Heads of Year have regular session with groups of pupils who include those with SEMH needs. Our Learning Mentor meets 1:1 with some pupils and in small groups with others to provide the required support. We have a reach room which pupils can use.
Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)	We have a designated intervention teacher who delivers speech and language sessions to pupils. She works closely with a professional from the Speech and Language Therapy Service or Communication Support Service, these services also offer us whole staff training.

Home School Partnership

- At Meadowdale Academy we recognise that parents know their children best. Parents are always welcome to discuss their child and their views are respected and their concerns are taken into consideration at all stages of the SEN procedure.
- All parents and carers are invited to meet with their child's class teachers every term as well as receiving an annual report.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to use the home/school planner to keep in touch with school on a regular basis.
- Parents, carers and extended family are actively encouraged to attend curriculum and whole school events which take place on a termly basis.

Pupil Views

- Children's views matter to us.
- All pupils are aware of their termly targets which are recorded in their planners and are encouraged to self-review against these. As part of the review process, SEN pupils, are also asked about their views on their strengths, the areas in which they feel they would like to develop and the support they would like to receive.
- For their annual review those children with EHC plans are asked more formally about their views, their learning, their targets and the support and interventions they receive.

In order to ensure the most effective 'SEND' provision, the SENCO has:

- Weekly meetings with the Head teacher and SLT
- Termly meeting with Mrs. H Elder our Governor responsible for SEN.
- Regular meetings with all class and or subject teachers to discuss children on the SEN register and their provision.
- Pupil progress meetings
- Regular meetings with our Learning Support Assistants. We currently employ 11 LSAs, 2 apprentice LSAs and our Learning Mentor.

Staff Development:

The school is committed to providing INSET and staff development and SEN is a regular part of this. We monitor, review and develop all teachers and support staff's understanding of strategies to identify and support pupils with 'SEND'.

Conclusion:

Our intention is to provide the opportunity for all children, including those with SEND, to progress towards achieving their full potential. The partnership between home and school is highly valued and children's views are listened to.

Related policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies particularly:

- Admission Policy
- Behaviour for Learning Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Looked After Children Policy
- Complaints Policy

Complaints

- If you have any concerns relating to SEND provision your first point of contact should be the SENCO, Mrs. Morgan.
- If the issue cannot be resolved then further discussion can be arranged with the Head Teacher, Mrs Finn.
- Our named SEND Governor is Mrs H Elder and she can be contacted via our school 01670 823170 and admin@meadowdale.northumberland.sch.uk

Review of policy

A copy of this policy was agreed by the Governing Body

Signed: *R Morgan*

Date: 10.03.17

Signed: *D Alcraft*

Date: 10.03.17

Appendix 1 Broad areas of need From Code of Practice (0-25) 2014

Communication and interaction

- . 6.28 Children and young people 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.
- . 6.29 Children and young people with ASD, including Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, 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.

Cognition and learning

- 6.30 Support for learning difficulties may be required when children and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), where children are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum and associated difficulties with mobility and communication, through to profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), where children are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment.
- 6.31 Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

Social, emotional and mental health difficulties

- . 6.32 Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.
- . 6.33 Schools and colleges should have clear processes to support children and young people, including how they will manage the effect of any disruptive behaviour so it does not adversely affect other pupils. The Department for Education publishes guidance on managing pupils' mental health and behaviour difficulties in schools – see the References section under Chapter 6 for a link.

Sensory and/or physical needs

- . 6.34 Some children and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. These difficulties can be age related and may fluctuate over time. Many children and young people with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning, or habilitation support. Children and young people with an MSI have a combination of vision and hearing difficulties. Information on how to provide services for deafblind children and young people is available through the Social Care for Deafblind Children and Adults guidance published by the Department of Health (see the References section under Chapter 6 for a link).
- . 6.35 Some children and young people with a physical disability (PD) require additional ongoing support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.