



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY CODE OF PRACTICE (SEND) POLICY

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Signed..... Date

Jane Naylor Head Teacher

Signed..... Date

Val Mobberley Chair of Governors

Round Oak School, Support Service and Sports College

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1. Special Educational Needs & Disability Coordinator (SENDCO)

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1. Statement and vision

Our aim is to ensure that every pupil achieves their full potential in their educational attainment and personal development by receiving the highest standards of teaching and care.

Round Oak Schools believe that:

- All children and young people should have an appropriate education with opportunities to achieve their goals and aspirations and where their voice is heard.
- All children and young people in our care are entitled to access a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum to meet their special educational needs (SEN).
- All children and young people with SEN require a high level of support and guidance to ensure that they access learning, activities and the wider community successfully and to ensure that they are prepared for independent living and adult life.

Round Oak offers a range of settings that cater for children and young people with a variety of special educational needs such as social and emotional difficulties, social communication and autistic spectrum conditions and associated complex needs.

The school aims to maximise every individuals' potential to develop into a confident, secure, well-adjusted and skilled young person who will make a positive contribution to society and live as independent a life as possible.

At Round Oak we believe that all of our pupils, regardless of gender, ethnicity, ability, disability or sexuality are entitled to a high quality education that will maximise their life chances.

This policy is constructed in line with the requirements set out in Part 3 of the Pupils and Families Bill (2014) and associated regulations.

The policy is fully compliant with the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice: for 0 to 25 years (July 2014). It relates to children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabled children and young people. A 'young person' in this context is a person over compulsory school age and under 25.

Compulsory school age ends on the last Friday of June in the academic year in which the child becomes 16.

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From 1 September 2014 transitional arrangements have been in place to support the changeover from the old system to the new system in a phased and ordered way. The change over period is expected to be 3 years.

These arrangements, which are set out in a statutory transitional order and accompanied by transitional guidance, will facilitate the transfer of those with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

They ensure that during the transition period local authorities must continue to comply with elements of the Education Act 1996 in relation to children with statements and the Learning and Skills Act 2000 in relation to young people who have had learning difficulty assessments and remain in education or training (provided they still have learning difficulties).

2. Statement of Special Educational Needs – the transition to EHCP (September 2014 onwards)

Transfer of the Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) must be initiated by the local authority in the form of a '*transfer review*'. This should replace the usual annual review of the child's statement at the relevant time.

Parents, carers and young people must be invited to the transfer review. An EHC needs assessment must be conducted as part of this, although there is no need for the local authority to seek additional advice for the assessment if there is already up-to-date and relevant information available.

Once the transfer process is completed parents/carers have the right to appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) under the new Act (The Children and Families Act 2014).

3. Existing (non-statutory) EHCP

If a child already has an EHCP as they live in a Pathfinder local authority, it will be possible to request an EHC needs assessment at any time. The local authority should treat non-statutory EHCP's issued before 1 September 2014 as a statutory document, so that the child's plan should be reviewed within 12 months of issue, or of the previous review. Assuming that the information in the plan remains relevant, transfer to the new system should be quite straightforward.

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4. Learning difficulty assessments (LDAs)

Young people over 16 years have the right to request an education and health care needs assessment in their own right.

Young people in further education or training can choose to request an assessment at any time during the transition period between 1 September 2014 and 1 September 2016.

To help ensure young people continue to receive appropriate support at the end of the transition period, local authorities must consider whether an EHC needs assessment is needed for young people who are likely to continue to receive further education or training beyond 31 August 2016. Existing information within the LDA should contribute to the EHC needs assessment.

The legal test of when a child or young person requires an EHC plan remains the same as that for a statement under the Education Act 1996. Therefore, it is expected that all those who have a statement and who would have continued to have one under the current system, will be transferred to an EHC plan – no-one should lose their statement and not have it replaced with an EHC plan simply because the system is changing.

Similarly, local authorities have undertaken LDAs for young people either because they had a statement at school or because, in the opinion of the local authority, they are likely to need additional support as part of their further education or training and would benefit from a LDA to identify their learning needs and the provision required to meet those needs. Therefore, the expectation is that young people who are currently receiving support as a result of a LDA and remain in further education or training during the transition period, who request and need an EHC plan, will be issued with one.

5. Definitions

Round Oak identifies pupils as having *Special Educational Needs* if they meet the definition as set out in the 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice' (DfE & DoH, July 2014):

"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.

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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"*

Many children and young people who have SEN may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 – that is "*...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.*"

The school provides special educational provision for pupils who require: "*Special educational provision, that is provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age.*"

The school provides for pupils whose special educational needs fall broadly into one or more of the following areas:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and behavioural development
- Sensory and/or physical needs

Objectives of Round Oak SEN policy

We will ensure that a child or young person with SEN will have their needs met through a rigorous programme of identification, assessment, planning and support.

To achieve this:

- the views of the pupil will be sought and taken into account.
- our parents and carers have a vital role to play in supporting their child's education.
- our pupils with SEN will be offered full access to a broad, balanced and relevant education, including an appropriate curriculum
- the school will manage its resources to ensure all pupils' needs are met.
- A pupil's special educational needs (or additional needs) will be identified at the earliest time
- provision and progress for our SEN pupils will be monitored and reviewed regularly.

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- the school will involve outside agencies when appropriate
- Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP) or Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) will be reviewed regularly in line with regulations.
- appropriate training will be provided for those involved in the implementation of the policy.

We believe that educational inclusion is about equal opportunities for all learners, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, impairment, attainment and background. We pay particular attention to the provision for and the achievement of all groups of learners including:

- girls and boys
- minority ethnic and faith groups
- learners who need support to learn English as an additional language (EAL)
- learners with special educational needs
- learners who are disabled or have long term illness
- those who are gifted and talented relative to their starting points
- those who are looked after by the local authority
- any learners who are at risk of disaffection and exclusion

Where a need is identified (or has been previously identified), the school will put appropriate evidence-based interventions in place. These will be provided as part of a graduated response, which includes regular review of the progress made and adaptations to the support provided, as required.

The effectiveness and appropriateness of the policy will be continuously monitored by the Head Teacher in conjunction the Senior Leadership in conjunction with the teaching staff using the criteria listed elsewhere.

The use of resources, identification, programme planning, effectiveness and quality of individual planning, pupil progress, pupil participation, parents as partners, statutory reviews, the identification of training needs and the use made of support services and therapies will be monitored and evaluated regularly.

In addition, the school will undertake a self-evaluation of the policy in order to both update the policy and to plan further improvements and development.

Co-ordination of the provision

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The Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Department has an important role to play with the Head Teacher and teachers in determining the strategic development of SEN policy and provision in the school.

8. Others responsible

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class, including where pupils access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff.

Teachers are responsible for high quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils. Round Oak will regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement.

This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils.

At Round Oak we have an agreed approach to the identification and assessment of pupils taking into account the nature of the special needs. Identification includes the use of high quality formative assessment, as well as effective tools and early assessment materials.

The main source of outside agency support is from the local authority or commissioned services such as the educational psychologist or health professionals such as speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, Occupational health and counselling. Informed parental permission will be sought before such consultations take place.

Access to the national curriculum

Round Oak follows the new national curriculum statement on inclusion. We expect our teachers to set high expectations for every pupil and aim to teach them the full curriculum, whatever their prior attainment.

Teachers will use appropriate assessment to set targets which are deliberately ambitious. Lessons are planned to address potential areas of difficulty and to ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving.

In many cases, such planning will mean that our pupils with SEN will be able to study the full national curriculum. Potential areas of difficulty will be identified and addressed at the outset of work. We make every effort to make adaptations to curriculum, teaching and the learning

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environment to meet the needs of individual pupils, and where appropriate as part of the planning for the pupil we provide access to ancillary aids and assistive technology.

At Round Oak we can work across a variety of SEND. These areas of need will be managed to ensure that each young person can achieve as highly as possible for their individual circumstances.

We therefore encourage our teaching team to work in the following manner:

9.1 Communication and interaction

- Children with speech and language communication needs benefit from education with additional support mechanisms.
- A 'sensory' based approach is effective for children with communication and interaction difficulties associated with profound and multiple learning difficulties.

9.2 Cognition and learning

- The teaching of transferable thinking and learning skills is commonly emphasised in our teaching practice.
- Effective teaching strategies may include the use of 'procedural facilitators' like planning sheets, writing frames, story mapping and teacher modelling of cognitive strategies; although for quality and independence in learning it is crucial to extend these technical aids with elaborated 'higher order' questioning and dialogue between teachers and pupils.
- The classroom is seen as a whole learning environment, including embracing developments in computing skills.
- Explicit, comprehensive and integrated teaching of different aspects of reading linked to spelling and writing is encouraged.
- Responding to individual differences is seen as crucial.
- Teachers will ensure careful and ongoing assessment is linked to planning and teaching.

9.3 Social, emotional and behavioural development

- We recognise the use of peers to be a valuable resource either as part of a behaviour management programme (for example prefects) or peer-oriented intervention (for example a buddy classes).

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- Staff will actively encourage children to regulate their behaviour by teaching them that self-monitoring, self-instruction and self-reinforcement skills are effective in producing adaptive behaviour change (i.e. increased on-task behaviour, reductions in anti-social behaviour etc.).
- Approaches using positive reinforcement are seen as the most effective way of managing most young people in our care (where appropriate behaviour is immediately rewarded) appear to be effective in increasing on-task behaviour.
- A combination of approaches are more effective in facilitating positive social, emotional and behavioural outcomes than single approaches alone.

9.4 Sensory and/or physical needs

- Strategies emphasising the importance of providing opportunity for developing skills of social interaction and access to the child's local environment, such as participatory/active learning methods, physical education as a means of bridging the therapeutic/educational divide for pupils with physical disabilities and combining emotional and social development with academic and cognitive growth are encouraged.
- The school will develop strategies and approaches which provide opportunities for developing the child's independence.
- Systemic strategies and environmental adaptations would be used to increase access to participation and learning.
- The use of technology is seen as particularly useful and is endorsed.

10. Education, Care and Health Plans (EHCP)/Statement of Special Educational Needs (SSEN)

The school will ensure that teachers monitor and review the pupil's progress during the course of a year. Formal reviews of the EHCP/SSEN will take place at least annually. If a pupil's special educational needs change, the local authority will be informed by the Head Teacher and they will arrange with the local authority to hold a review as soon as possible to ensure that provision specified in the EHCP/SSEN plan is appropriate.

11. Preparing for adulthood (transition)

At Round Oak we help our pupils with SEN to start planning for their future adult life as early as possible, and by Year 9 at the latest. Our aim is to support our pupils to go on to achieve the best possible outcomes in

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employment, independent living and participating in society. This could include, for example:

- Including preparation for adulthood in the planning meetings with pupils and parents/carers at an early stage (and particularly from Year 9)
- Ensuring that careers advice and information provides high aspirations and a wide range of options for pupils with SEN; and
- Helping pupils, parents and carers understand and explore how the support they receive in school will change as they move into different settings, and what support they are likely to need to achieve their ambitions.

Round Oak has specific duties to prepare young people with EHCP/SSEN for the transition to adulthood. The review of an EHCP/SSEN in Year 9 builds on previous reviews and existing plans. It will allow time for the commissioning of any necessary provision and support to take place.

Planning will build on action that has already been agreed with the pupil and will inform decisions about the next stage of education - specifically choices about what relevant qualifications the child will be studying, the range of post-16 options which may be available and the longer term outcomes that the child wants to achieve in their adult life.

12. Arrangements made relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school

Any complaints from parents/carers of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school should be made through the school's complaint procedures as set out on the school's website and in the prospectus.

13. Arrangements for professional development for all teachers and teaching assistants, in relation to special educational needs

The professional development of all staff involved in meeting the needs of pupils with SEN is ongoing and continuous. A wide range of training opportunities is provided which includes:

- Skill sharing and the demonstration of teaching techniques and strategies organised within the school.
- Professional development sessions and one-off sessions on relevant subjects provided by SEN specialists

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- Attendance at courses offered by external providers, accredited and non accredited as part of the school's performance management process.

14. The role played by the parents of pupils with special educational needs

We work in partnership with parents and carers of pupils with special educational needs and actively ensure that they:

- recognise and fulfil their responsibilities as parents/carers and play an active and valued role in their child's education.
- have knowledge of their child's entitlement within the SEN framework.
- make their views known about how their child is educated
- have access to information, advice and support during assessment and any related decision-making processes about special educational provision.

To make communications effective staff at Round Oak will:

- acknowledge and draw on parental/carer knowledge and expertise in relation to their child.
- focus on the child's strengths as well as areas of additional need.
- recognise the personal and emotional investment of parents/carers and be aware of their feelings.
- ensure that parents/carers understand procedures, are aware of how to access support in preparing their contributions, and are given documents to be discussed well before meetings.
- respect the validity of differing perspectives and seek constructive ways of reconciling different viewpoints.
- respect the differing needs parents/carers themselves may have, such as a disability, or communication and linguistic barriers
- recognise the need for flexibility in the timing and structure of meetings.

15. The role played by pupils with special educational needs

We will always seek the pupil's views about their education although, rarely, this may not be through direct discussion with the individual.

Pupils will be enabled/encouraged to participate in all decision-making processes in respect of their education, including the setting of learning targets, contributing to personal plans, choices of school, contributions to

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the assessment of their needs and termly reviews and transition meetings.

Learning is most effective when children are engaged with the process, and where children know that they are listened to and that their views are valued.

16. Any links with other schools and the provision made for the transition of pupils with special educational needs between schools or between the school and the next stage of life or education

Priority is given to the successful transition of pupils with SEN. All relevant documentation is shared with schools and colleges prior to transfer. Contact is coordinated by the Round Oak Careers Adviser or the Head Teacher. Transition arrangements for pupils with SEN either moving into the school or moving on to new schools should also be agreed with the specific officer of the local authority.