



SEND Policy (Secondary)

PURPOSE

This policy complies with all statutory requirements, especially those relating to the legislation contained in the Equality Act 2010 and the Children and Families Act 2014, as set out in the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25, September 2014. This policy was created by the academy SENDCo in collaboration with the SEND Link Governor and the Academy Leadership Team, taking into account the views of pupils, parents and relevant other stakeholders.

Date of last review:	November 2022	Author:	Sam Edmondson
Date of next review:	September 2023	Owner:	Education Directors
Type of policy:	<input type="checkbox"/> Network-wide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tailored by school	Approval:	Management Team
School:	Ark Academy	Key Contact Name:	Governance Team
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POSITIONING WITHIN ARK OPERATIONAL MODEL

Component	Element
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Leadership & Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring, Reporting & Data <input type="checkbox"/> Governance & Accountabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching & Learning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curriculum & Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Culture, Ethos & Wellbeing <input type="checkbox"/> Pathways & Enrichment <input type="checkbox"/> Parents & Community <input type="checkbox"/> Finance, IT & Estates <input type="checkbox"/> Our People	Inclusion Model

Policy Information

Named personnel with designated responsibility for all matters associated with SEND:

Role	Designated Person	Contact Details
SENDCo	Sam Edmondson	s.edmondson@arkacademy.org
Senior leader who manages the SEND Department	Sam Edmondson	s.edmondson@arkacademy.org
SEND Link Governor	Usama Yusuf (acting)	
Designated teacher with safeguarding responsibility	Kim Rogers	k.rogers@arkacademy.org
Member of staff responsible for pupils with medical needs	Gemma Cusick	g.cusick@arkacademy.org
Member of staff responsible for managing PPG/LAC funding	Delia Smith	d.smith@arkacademy.org

Roles and Responsibilities

The SENDCo

The SENDCo has day-to-day responsibility for the operation of the SEND policy and co-ordinating provision made for children with SEND.

The SENDCo provides professional guidance to colleagues with the aim of securing high quality teaching for children with SEND, and works closely with children, parents and other professionals to ensure children with SEND receive appropriate support.

The SENDCo plays an important role with the Headteacher and governing body in determining the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the academy in order to raise the achievements of children with SEND.

In compliance with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, the SENDCo is also responsible for the following:

- In relation to each of the registered pupils who the SENDCo considers may have special educational needs, informing a parent / carer of the pupil that this may be the case as soon as is reasonably practicable
- In relation to each of the registered pupils who have special educational needs:
 - Identifying the pupil's special educational needs, and coordinating the making of special educational provision which meets those needs
 - Monitoring the effectiveness of any special educational provision made
 - Securing relevant services for the pupil where necessary
 - Ensuring the records of the pupil's special educational needs and the special educational provision made are maintained and kept up to date
 - Liaising with and providing information to a parent / carer of the pupil on a regular basis about that pupil's special educational needs and the special educational provision made
 - Ensuring that, where the pupil transfers to another school or educational institution, educational provision made is conveyed to the appropriate authority or the proprietor of that school or institution
 - Promoting the pupil's inclusion in the school community and access to the school's curriculum, facilities and extra-curricular activities
- Selecting, supervising and training learning support assistants who work with pupils with special educational needs
- Advising teachers at the school about differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils with special educational needs
- Contributing to in-service training for teachers at the school to assist them to carry out necessary tasks to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs
- Preparing and reviewing the information required by law to be published in relation to special educational needs provision

The SEND Link Governor

The SEND Link Governor has specific oversight of the school's arrangements for SEND. Their responsibilities include:

- Helping to raise awareness of SEND issues at governing body meetings
- Ensuring that the school's notional SEN budget is appropriately allocated to support pupils with SEN
- Giving up-to-date information to the governing body on the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within the school
- Helping to review the school's policy on provision for pupils with SEN
- Assuring the governing body that the school website publishes the school's SEN offer

The Principal

The Principal has overall responsibility for the strategic planning and day-to-day delivery of SEND provision.

Our Vision, Values And Aims

Our vision for all pupils, including those who may have SEND, is that they will develop the necessary skills, knowledge and attributes to be able to lead happy and successful lives.

In achieving our aims, we will:

- work side-by-side with teaching staff, supporting them with training and development so that they can deliver well differentiated lessons with the needs of those pupils who have SEND in mind
- set exceptionally high expectations for all our pupils, and do whatever it takes to meet them. Our aspirations are no lower for pupils with SEND
- teach, recognise and reinforce good behaviour
- organise our academy so that every child knows, and is known well by, every adult in the academy
- **prioritise depth in English and mathematics, giving our pupils with SEND the best chance of success**
- make sure pupils have enough time both for core subjects and for extra-curricular activities

Identifying Special Educational Needs

Early identification of pupils' needs is the key to unlocking the potential of pupils who may have special educational needs. We adopt a graduated approach to ensure that pupils who do not develop age appropriate knowledge and skills, or who fall behind their peers are identified as early as possible.

The attainment in English and mathematics of all pupils is assessed upon entry to the academy in order to:

- form the baseline for setting individual targets. Progress towards these targets is reviewed at data entry points at least three times per year to ensure that pupils who fall behind are identified as early as possible.
- identify pupils whose development is significantly behind that of their peers. Such pupils are prioritised for targeted and/or specialist assessment and/or intervention as set out in section 5 below. Each intervention is reviewed frequently, based on progress against intervention-specific measures. Refer to Appendix A for a full list of assessments and interventions.

Pupils at Key Stage 3 are also assessed annually for literacy development so that those who lag behind their peers may receive the necessary targeted or specialist input to help them catch up.

Where concerns about a child's learning or development arise as a result of our data analysis, we start the identification process by talking to the pupil and a parent / carer. Where learning needs appear complex, we may also seek input from specialists such as educational psychologists or speech and language therapists.

In our attempts to understand the learning needs of pupils, we apply the four broad categories of need as set out in the SEN Code of Practice 0 – 25 (2014):

- **Communication and interaction** needs refer to those children who experience difficulty with speech, language and communication
- **Cognition and learning** needs refer to those children who learn at a slower pace than their peers, or who have difficulties acquiring skills in a specific area such as literacy. This includes children with moderate learning difficulties and severe learning difficulties, requiring support in all areas of the curriculum and participation in school life in general
- **Social, emotional and mental health** needs, as manifested in different ways, such as children becoming withdrawn or displaying challenging behaviour such as being disruptive or self-harming. Children who have difficulty paying attention, or forming attachments with adults also fall into this category.
- **Sensory and / or physical** needs refer to those children who require special educational provision because they have a disability that prevents them from accessing the educational facilities that are generally available

A Graduated Approach to SEN Support

At Ark Academy we have a three-tiered, graduated approach to supporting children's learning needs. The graduated approach at each tier involves:

- *Assessing* the pupil's needs by considering all of the information gathered from within the academy about the pupil's progress, alongside national data and expectations of progress.
- *Planning* the most effective and appropriate short term intervention, based on evidence of what works
- *Providing* this intervention and training staff to deliver it to a high standard
- *Reviewing* the impact on the pupil's progress towards individual learning outcomes at shorter intervals, depending on the type of intervention

Wave 1: Universal Support

It is our firm belief that pupils' needs are best met in the classroom and that, therefore, every teacher is responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all

pupils they teach, including those with SEND. At this **universal** level, we train our teachers to deliver high quality teaching, accessible for individual pupils. We review the progress of all pupils at least three times per year and make rapid adjustments to support strategies and, where necessary, teachers' understanding of the needs of individual pupils they teach. In addition, we talk to children and their parents to gain as full an understanding of their learning needs as possible. The information we gather in this way is shared with teachers in an Individual Education Plan. The IEP is a document that outlines strategies to meet children's needs, with suggested strategies for teachers, parents and the child themselves to best support their learning.

Wave 2: Targeted Support

We provide **targeted** support when we consider it appropriate to make additional short term special educational provision to remove or reduce any obstacle to a pupil's learning, or to help them catch up when termly data analysis shows they have fallen behind their peers.

Such specific, targeted one to one or small group interventions may be run outside the classroom, limited to a number of weeks (usually 6 or a half-term, whichever is shorter) to minimise disruption to the regular curriculum.

Wave 3: Specialist Support

We provide **specialist** support when we consider it necessary to seek specialist advice and/or regular long term support from a specialist professional outside the academy in order to plan for the best possible learning outcomes for those pupils who fail to make progress in spite of high quality teaching and targeted intervention. This may include assessment and / or support from:

- A speech and language therapist
- Brent Outreach Autism Team (BOAT)
- Brent Deaf and Hearing Impaired Service (BDHIS)
- Brent Visual Impairment Service (BVIS)

Recording SEND

We are required by law to keep a record of those pupils who have been identified as having SEND, and the provision we make for such pupils.

For each pupil with SEND, the SENDCo will record on the academy data management system their broad area/s of need as listed in point 4 above, as well as a description of any specific areas of need. This will make up the academy SEN/D register.

Records of interventions and support are kept in the academy provision map.

When the pupil has caught up with their peers and therefore no longer requires the additional provision or support, in consultation with parents the entry will be deleted from the SEN/D register and provision will be ended in the provision map.

Support for families

We provide support to parents / carers of pupils with SEND through regular contact, information sharing and termly progress reports.

Specific support is provided at key transition points. At the end of Key Stage 3 parents /

carers may talk to the SENDCo about choosing options for Key Stage 4 for their children with SEND. Similarly at the end of Key Stage 4 parents / carers may approach the SENDCo for support relating to Sixth Form or other further education options.

Additional support to families is available through the local authority, whose Local Offer can be accessed here: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/children-and-family-support/the-brent-local-offer/>

Parents may also wish to get in touch with Brent SENDIAS –

- Sharon Bourla
- Brent SEND Information Advice and Support Service
- Brent Civic Centre
- Engineers Way
- Wembley
- HA9 0FJ
- Tel 020 8937 3435

Supporting Pupils At School With Medical Conditions

We recognise that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. 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.

Some pupils with medical conditions may also have special educational needs and where this is the case the academy will comply with the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (2014).

The policy for meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions sets out the academy approach in this regard. This policy is available on the academy web site.

Monitoring and Evaluation of SEND Provision

The progress of all pupils towards their attainment targets are monitored at data entry points at least three times per year. It is expected that pupils with SEND will make good progress in response to high quality, well differentiated teaching. Where this is not the case, we rapidly respond to pupils' needs as set out in section 5.

The senior leadership team, supported by the SENDCo, regularly observe lessons to monitor the quality of teaching, and for those pupils with SEND focus specifically on the extent to which teachers adapt their lessons and resources as set out in the IEP.

The progress of pupils who receive targeted or specialist support is measured against intervention specific baselines and targets. For example, we assess pupils' reading development prior to targeted literacy intervention, and again after a set period of time to assess whether the intervention is allowing pupils to catch up with their peers.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan have a formal review meeting each year, at which progress and provision are considered and – if needed – changes are made.

Training and Resources

We make every effort to ensure that staff at Ark Academy are suitably trained and that we have adequate resources available to meet the needs of all pupils, including those with SEND.

Staffing and resources are funded through the Academy's notional SEN budget - a sum of money the academy receives to spend at our discretion for meeting the needs of pupils with SEND. We provide support and resources from this budget as required up to the value of £6000 per pupil with SEND.

Some children with an Education, Health and Care plan may receive additional funding (top up funding) to have their needs met. This top up funding is used specifically for resources needed by that particular pupil and is reported on during the annual review meeting.

In order to maintain and develop the quality of teaching and provision to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils, all staff are encouraged to undertake training and development. In addition, we audit staff training needs in relation to special educational needs on an annual basis as to inform the continued professional development schedule for the academic year.

The SENDCo regularly attends SENDCo network meetings at Ark Network level in order to keep up to date with Ark Network-wide, and national, updates in SEND.

Storing and Managing Information

All documents and information are stored in compliance with guidance presented in the Data Protection Policy, available on the website.

Accessibility

The Equality Act 2010 placed a duty on schools to plan to increase over time the accessibility of schools for disabled pupils.

Physical access and access to learning for children with a disability are provided in full, in line with access provided to able-bodied peers.

Our accessibility plan can be viewed on the website.

Dealing with Complaints

Our named person for all matters relating to SEND is Sam Edmondson. He should be contacted if parents / carers have a concern. If a parent wishes to make a formal complaint, guidance as to how this can be done is available on the academy website. www.arkacademy.org

Reviewing the Policy

Governors, the Headteacher and SENDCo, paying regard to views expressed by children, parents and all agency staff who have been consulted or have contributed to SEND provision during the year, will review the policy, publishing an updated version on the school website.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Equality impact statement

We will do all we can to ensure that this policy does not discriminate, directly or indirectly. We shall do this through regular monitoring and evaluation of our policies. On review we shall assess and consult relevant stakeholders on the likely impact of our policies on the promotion of all aspects of equality, as laid down in the Equality Act (2010). This will include, but not necessarily be limited to: race; gender; sexual orientation; disability; ethnicity; religion; cultural beliefs and pregnancy/maternity. We will use an appropriate Equality Impact Assessment to monitor the impact of all our policies and the policy may be amended as a result of this assessment.

Appendix A: Assessment Strategy

At half-termly intervals, use data to colour-code children's attainment / progress / wider outcomes:

RED = Attainment / progress below average; gap between pupil and peers not closing

AMBER / Yellow = Attainment / progress below average; gap between pupil and peers closing

GREEN = Attainment / progress in average range

UNIVERSAL	Possible area/s of need	TARGETED	SPECIALIST
Half-termly data review (Class teacher, HOY, HOD)	<i>Please note: these are hypotheses only; formal diagnoses can only be made by specialist professionals</i>	Further school-based assessment to inform universal strategies and targeted interventions (Specialist teacher / SENDCo)	Specialist assessment for diagnosis and / or advice to inform universal and targeted support (SENDCo)
Attainment + progress: English Reading Test Results (NGRT)	Literacy difficulties	GL Dyslexia Screening WRAT IV / YARC / AAB Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing (CTOPP) Check vision	SpLD teacher Ed Psych GP referral
	EAL	EAL Stages / QCA Scales	EAL teacher
	Language and Communication Difficulties	Language and Communication Checklist Check hearing	Speech and Language Therapist GP referral
Attainment + progress: maths	Numeracy difficulties	Basic Number Screening Test (Y7 and Y8) CAT 4 (quantitative) WRAT IV (math computation)	Ed Psych
	Difficulties with abstract thinking		Ed Psych
Attainment + progress: across the curriculum	Moderate learning difficulties / general developmental delay	CAT 4 Consider personal history	Paediatrician Ed Psych
Attendance Negative behaviour incidents Isolations / detentions Exclusions / at risk of permanent exclusion	Mental health problems	Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire The Boxall Profile	EWO CAHMs therapist Ed Psych Paediatrician
	Difficulties related to personal organisation	Coping in Schools Scale	Ed Psych
	Social Skills Difficulties	Language and communication Checklist	Speech and Language Therapist
	Family or social difficulties	Consider personal history	Social Services, Family support, Home-school liaison
Handwriting / coordination – observational information	Motor Skills Problems	Diagnostic Assessment of Speed of Handwriting (DASH) Hedderly Sentence Completion Test	Ed Psych Occupational Therapist
Isolated / socially withdrawn – observational information	Social Skills Difficulties	Language and communication checklist	Speech and Language Therapist
	Mental health problems	Strength and difficulties questionnaire	CAMHS Therapist

Appendix B: Inclusion Strategy

	• Cognition and Learning •	• Speech, Language and Communication Needs •	• Social, Emotional and Mental Health issues •	• Sensory and/or Physical Disability •
Wave 1 – Universal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ••• High aspirations and expectations for all children, regardless of need. ••• Quality- first class teaching led by teachers equipped with strategies to differentiate learning by attainment level. ••• Great pastoral support led by Form Tutors who know and understand the needs of their tutees. ••• 4x Group Education Plans provide generic strategies for each area of need. ••• Clear referral programme for SEND investigation (and feedback provided to teacher, tutor, parent and child). ••• Exam Access Arrangements implemented for all formative and summative assessments. ••• Opportunities applied equally for those with and without SEND (e.g. University trips, sports clubs and activities, Heads of House know who/how to include children with SEND in House competitions). 			
Wave 2 – Targeted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class support in lowest-attaining groups in EN, MA, SC (and for children with PD when stated in EHC Plan). • Literacy intervention programme in KS3. • Additional English programme in KS4. ••• Individual Education Plans (IEPs), reviewed termly. ••• SEND- specific intervention programme (e.g. ASD social stories, Social Thinking group). ••• Homework club (expanded offer inc. Lexia, Seneca and Hegarty Maths). ••• Cascaded impact of SLCN strategies for all learners. • Tutor Time Talk programme for Form Tutors. 			
Wave 3 – Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech and Language Therapy (on site). • Physiotherapy (on site). • Visual Impairment adaptation of resources. • Counselling (on site). ••• Educational Psychologist assessment. ••• External agency on site (inc. Brent Outreach Autism Team BOAT, Occupational Therapy, Brent VI and HI, etc). 			

How do we check?

Seating Plans – saved centrally and provided during formal observation.

Book Looks – to ascertain the impact of differentiation and ensure high expectations are maintained.

Twilight “Teachers of...” CPD – guided discussion on strategies for success, shared with your colleagues.

Pupil Outcome Reflections – a formal process of reflection with your Head of Department.

Pupil Voice – we meet with the children at least 3x per year (and they are very secure in their feedback).

Learning Walks with Heads of Department and SLT.

Homework submission data.

Safeguarding/vulnerable/mental health fortnightly meeting.