

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy



Churchdown School Academy
ACHIEVING SUCCESS FOR ALL

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Person responsible:	Mrs N Roberts-Moore

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1. Aims and objectives

Our special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy aims to:

- Make sure our school fully implements national legislation and guidance regarding pupils with SEND
- Set out how our school will:
 - Support and make provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
 - Provide pupils with SEND access to all aspects of school life so they can engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEND
 - Help pupils with SEND fulfil their aspirations and achieve their best
 - Help pupils with SEND become confident individuals living fulfilling lives
 - Help pupils with SEND make a successful transition into adulthood
 - Communicate with pupils with SEND and their parents or carers and involve them in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Ensure the needs of students with SEND are identified, assessed, provided for and regularly reviewed
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEND
- Communicate with, and involve, pupils with SEND and their parents or carers in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Make sure the SEND policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff

2. Vision and values

Churchdown School Academy (the school) is committed to providing a high quality of education, development and pastoral care for its students.

Our mission is to be a school where student development and learning are at the centre of everything we do.

Students are expected to strive for personal excellence and demonstrate a commitment to learning as they fulfil their potential. Our community is a nurturing and caring one where students are encouraged to show compassion, friendship and support towards one another. We aim to provide an education which is fully inclusive, where every child is valued for who they are and who they can become.

The education we provide is guided by values of tenacity, resilience, respect, ambition and friendship. These values are particularly important to us as we develop students into lifelong learners and prepare them for life beyond school.

We value the contribution that every child and young person can make and welcome the diversity of culture, religion and intellectual style. The school seeks to raise the achievement, remove barriers to learning and increase physical and curricular access for all. All children and young people with SEND are valued, respected and equal members of the school. As such provision for pupils with SEND is a matter for the school as a whole. All teachers are teachers of pupils with SEND.

3. Legislation and guidance

This is based on the statutory [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#) and the following legislation:

- › [Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- › [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEND coordinators (SENDCos) and the special educational needs (SEN) information report
- › The [Equality Act 2010](#) (section 20), which sets out the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities
- › The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes having a disability) and those who don't share it
- › The [Governance Handbook](#), which sets out governors' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- › The [School Admissions Code](#), which sets out the school's obligation to admit all pupils whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and its duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special educational needs.

This policy reflects the statutory safeguarding guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education and complies with our funding agreement and Articles of Association.

4. Inclusion and equal opportunities

At our school we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all pupils, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We are committed to offering all pupils the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations.

We will achieve this by ensuring all students access high quality teaching, reasonable adjustments to teaching, the curriculum and the school environment to make sure that pupils with SEND are included in all aspects of school life.

5. Definitions

5.1 Special educational needs

A pupil has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision to be made for them.

They have a **learning difficulty or disability** if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age, or
- A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

5.2 Disability

Pupils are considered to have a **disability** if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

The school will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

5.3 The Four areas of need

The needs of pupils with SEND are grouped into four broad areas. Pupils can have needs that cut across more than one area, and their needs may change over time.

The school adopts a graduated approach to supporting social, emotional and mental health needs, with a focus on early identification and intervention.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the pupil's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	<p>Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or do not understand or use the social rules of communication.</p> <p>Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.</p>
Cognition and learning	<p>Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers. A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific learning difficulties, which impact 1 or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia• Moderate learning difficulties• Severe learning difficulties• Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment

AREA OF NEED	
Social, emotional and mental health	<p>These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder • Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder • Suffered adverse childhood experiences <p>These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.</p>
Sensory and/or physical	<p>Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided.</p> <p>Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment • A physical impairment <p>These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.</p>

6. Roles and responsibilities

The SENDCo at our school is Mrs Sarah Jones (sej@churchdownschool.com)

They will:

- Inform any parents that their child may have SEN and then liaise with them about the pupil's needs and any provision made
- Work with the headteacher, Deputy Head and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- Be a point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to ensure that appropriate provision is provided
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to make sure that the pupil and their parents are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned
- When a pupil moves to a different school or institution: Make sure that all relevant information about a pupil's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution in a timely manner

- › Work with the headteacher, Deputy Head and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- › Make sure the school keeps its records of all pupils with SEND up to date and accurate
- › With the headteacher and Deputy Head, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- › With the headteacher and Deputy Head, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- › Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy
- › With the headteacher, Deputy Head and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

6.2 The governing board

The governing board is responsible for making sure the following duties are carried out, though the duties can be delegated to a committee or an individual:

- › Co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and developing the local offer
- › Do all it can to make sure that every pupil with SEND gets the support they need
- › Make sure that pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who don't have SEND
- › Inform parents when the school is making special educational provision for their child
- › Make sure that the school has arrangements in place to support any pupils with medical conditions
- › Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- › Have a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND
- › Provide an annual report for parents on their child's progress
- › Record accurately and keep up to date the provision made for pupils with SEND
- › Publish information on the school website about how the school is implementing its SEND policy, in a SEN information report
- › Publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and the school's accessibility plans
- › Make sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENDCo for the school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out, and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out
- › Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND
- › Make sure that all pupils from year 9 until year 13 are provided with independent careers advice

6.3 The SEND link governor

The SEND link governor is Kate Joiner (kaj@churchdownschool.com)

The SEND governor will:

- › Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at governing board meetings
- › Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within the school and update the governing board on this

- › Work with the headteacher, Deputy Head and SENDCo to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school

6.4 The headteacher

The headteacher in conjunction with the Deputy Head will:

- › Work with the SENDCo and SEND link governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school
- › Work with the SENDCo and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- › Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for pupils with SEND, and their progress
- › Have responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEND budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual pupils
- › Make sure that the SENDCo has enough time to carry out their duties
- › Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of pupils on the SEND register
- › Advise the LA when a pupil needs an EHC needs assessment, or when an EHC plan needs an early review
- › With the SENDCo, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- › With the SENDCo, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- › With the SENDCo and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

6.5 Class teachers

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- › Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is differentiated to meet pupil needs through a graduated approach
- › The progress and development of every pupil in their class
- › Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- › Working with the SENDCo to review each pupil's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision
- › Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report
- › Communicating with parents regularly to:
 - Set clear outcomes and review progress towards them
 - Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set outcomes
 - Identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school
 - Listen to the parents' concerns and agree their aspirations for the pupil

6.6 Parents or carers

Parents or carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development.

Parents or carers of a pupil on the SEND register will be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about the pupil's SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support.

Parents or carers of a pupil with an EHCP will be invited to attend annual reviews, in line with statutory guidance. They are also encouraged to contact the SENDCo if they have any concerns or queries about their child's needs or if there are any changes in their child's needs.

The school will take into account the views of the parent or carer in any decisions made about the pupil.

6.7 The pupil

Pupils will be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. This might involve the pupil:

- Explaining what their strengths and difficulties are
- Contributing to setting targets or outcomes
- Attending review meetings
- Giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions

The pupil's views will be taken into account in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.

7. SEN information report

The school publishes a SEN information report on its website, which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school.

The information report will be updated annually and as soon as possible after any changes to the information it contains.

8. Our approach to SEND support

8.1 Identifying pupils with SEND and assessing their needs

We will assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment when they start at the school. This will build on information from previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. We will also consider any evidence that the pupil may have a special educational need or disability and if so, what reasonable adjustments the school may need to make.

Class teachers will regularly assess the progress of all pupils and identify any whose progress:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better their previous rate of progress
- Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers
- Widens the attainment gap

This may include progress in areas other than attainment, for example, wider development or social needs.

When teachers identify an area where a pupil is making slow progress, they will target the pupil's area of weakness with differentiated, high-quality teaching. If progress does not improve, the teacher will raise the issue with the SENDCo to have an initial discussion about whether this lack of progress may be due to a special educational need. Where necessary they will, in consultation with the pupil's parents or carers, consider consulting an external specialist.

Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a pupil is recorded as having SEN.

Potential short-term causes of impact on behaviour or performance will be considered, such as bullying or bereavement. Staff will also take particular care in identifying and assessing SEN for pupils whose first language is not English.

When deciding whether the pupil needs special educational provision, we will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and consider the views and the wishes of the pupil and their parents. We will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether we can provide it by adapting our core offer, or whether something different or additional is needed.

If a pupil is joining the school, and:

- › Their previous setting has already identified that they have SEN
- › They are known to external agencies
- › They have an education, health and care plan (EHCP)

then the school will work in a multi-agency way to make sure we get relevant information before the pupil starts at school, so support can be put in place as early as possible.

8.2 Consulting and involving pupils and parents

The school will put the pupil at the heart of all decisions made about special educational provision.

When we are aiming to identify whether a pupil needs special education provision, we will aim to have an early discussion with the pupil and their parents. These conversations will make sure that:

- › Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty
- › We take into account any concerns the parents have
- › Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child
- › Everyone is clear on what the next steps are

Notes of these early discussions will be added to the pupil's record and given to their parents.

8.3 The graduated approach to SEN support

Once a pupil has been identified as having SEN, we will take action to remove any barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This support will be delivered through successive rounds of a 4-part cycle known as the graduated approach.



8.4 Levels of support

School-based SEN provision

Pupils receiving SEN provision will be placed on the school's SEND register. These pupils have needs that can be met by the school through the graduated approach. Where the pupil's needs cannot be adequately met with in-house expertise, staff will consider involving an external specialist as soon as possible.

The provision for these pupils is funded through the school's notional SEND budget.

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code K.

Education, health and care (EHC) plan

Pupils who need more support than is available through the school's school-based SEN provision may be entitled to an EHC plan. The plan is a legal document that describes the needs of the pupil, the provision that will be put in place, and the outcomes sought.

The provision for these pupils will be funded from the school's notional SEND budget, and potentially from the LA (from the high-level needs funding block of the dedicated schools grant).

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code E.

8.5 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- Tracking pupils' progress, including the use of provision maps
- Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support
- Using pupil questionnaires
- Monitoring by the SENDCo
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans
- Getting feedback from the pupil and their parents

9. Attendance

Pupils with SEND may face additional barriers to regular attendance, including medical needs, anxiety, or communication difficulties. However, the school maintains high expectations for attendance for all pupils, including those with SEND.

We recognise that:

- Pupils with SEND have the same right to education as their peers
- Some pupils may require reasonable adjustments and additional support to attend school regularly

Our approach includes:

- Early identification of attendance concerns
- Close collaboration with families and external agencies
- Individualised support plans (including for EBSA)
- Flexible or phased reintegration where appropriate
- Alignment with the school's Attendance Policy

Where absence is linked to SEND, the school will:

- Investigate underlying needs
- Adapt provision accordingly
- Monitor impact and review regularly

10. Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All staff are trained to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns and understand that pupils with SEND may face additional safeguarding challenges, including communication barriers, social isolation and increased vulnerability to abuse or neglect.

The school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs N Roberts-Moore (Assistant Headteacher). The DSL can be contacted via the school office on 01452 713340 or by email at nrr@churchdownschool.com

The DSL works closely with the SENDCo, pastoral team and external agencies to ensure that safeguarding concerns relating to pupils with SEND are appropriately identified, recorded, monitored and acted upon. This includes working in partnership with social care, health services and other professionals where necessary.

All safeguarding concerns are managed in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and statutory guidance such as Keeping Children Safe in Education.

We recognise that pupils with SEND can face additional safeguarding challenges.

These may include:

- Increased vulnerability to abuse or neglect
- Communication barriers
- Social isolation
- Greater dependence on adults

Staff are trained to:

- Recognise signs of abuse in pupils with SEND
- Understand how SEND may affect behaviour and communication
- Respond appropriately to disclosures

We ensure:

- All safeguarding procedures consider the needs of pupils with SEND
- Clear communication strategies are used
- Close liaison between SEND and safeguarding teams

For full details, see the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

11. SEND and Behaviour

The school recognises that pupils with SEND are more vulnerable to exclusion. Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are expected to follow the school's behaviour expectations, engage positively with staff, and demonstrate respectful and courteous behaviour. Behaviour will always be considered in the context of a pupil's identified or potential SEND. The school will take all reasonable steps to understand and address underlying needs and will make appropriate adjustments to support

pupils. This does not prevent the use of suspension or exclusion in line with the school's behaviour policy and statutory guidance.

12. Expertise and training of staff

Training will regularly be provided to teaching and support staff. The headteacher and the SENDCo will continuously monitor and identify any specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.

13. Links with external professional agencies

The school recognises that it won't be able to meet all the needs of every pupil. Whenever necessary the school will work with external support services such as:

- Advisory Teaching Service
- Specialist teachers or support services
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- General practitioners or paediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Education welfare officer
- Social services

14. Admission and accessibility arrangements

14.1 Admission arrangements

The headteacher is responsible for the admission arrangements as laid out in the **Admissions policy**. The school is required to admit a child with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) if that EHCP names the school in their plan, where the resources and facilities meet the particular needs of the child.

14.2 Accessibility arrangements

Refer to our **Accessibility plan**.

15. Complaints about SEND provision

Where parents have concerns about our school's SEND provision, they should first raise their concerns informally with the class teacher or appropriate member of staff such as the Head of Year or the SENDCo. Parents may raise a complaint in person, by telephone or letter or email. The complaint will be investigated and, in most cases, we hope that the matter will be resolved straightaway to the parents' full satisfaction. If the member of staff cannot resolve the matter, it may be necessary for them to consult the Deputy Head or headteacher. We will try to resolve the complaint informally in the first instance. If this does not resolve their concerns, parents are welcome to submit their complaint formally.

Formal complaints about SEND provision in our school should be made in the first instance to the Deputy Head i/c complaints, or to the headteacher. If the complaint is about the Deputy Head. They will be handled in line with the school's **Complaints procedure**.

If the parent or carer is not satisfied with the school's response, they can escalate the complaint. In some circumstances, this right also applies to the pupil themselves.

To see a full explanation of suitable avenues for complaint, see pages 246 and 247 of the [SEN Code of Practice](#).

16. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

16.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

The school is committed to the ongoing review and improvement of its SEND policy. This will be achieved through regular evaluation of how effectively the objectives set out in Section 1 are being met.

- The effectiveness of the school's SEND provision will be assessed with regard to:
- staff awareness and understanding of pupils with SEND at the start of the autumn term
- the timeliness and accuracy of identification of pupils with SEND
- the progress and attainment of pupils following identification
- the extent to which pupils with SEND feel safe, valued, and included within the school community
- feedback and views from pupils and their parents/carers

16.2 Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by Mrs Roberts-Moore (Assistant Head) **every year**. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

It will be approved by the full governing board.

17. Links with other policies and documents

- Admissions policy
- Accessibility plan
- Equality information and objectives
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- Complaints procedure
- EAL policy
- Examination access arrangements policy
- SEN information report