



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS and DISABILITIES POLICY (SEND)

This Policy includes the Nursery and Early Years Foundation Stage

INTRODUCTION

Hazelwood School's Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy has been written to comply with the requirements of the SEN Code of Practice 2015 where this applies within the Hazelwood setting (see below), the Equality Act (2010 and of part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

ETHOS

The staff and Governing Body believe that all children regardless of ability are **valued equally** at Hazelwood. SEND children are not viewed as a separate entity but are part of the whole school community and different children's needs are recognised and met through varied and flexible provisions throughout the curriculum.

At Hazelwood School, every teacher is a teacher of a child with SEN.

SEND Definition

At Hazelwood School we use the definition for SEN and for disability from the SEND Code of Practice (2015).

This states:

SEN: A child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A learning difficulty or disability is a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age. Special educational provision means educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for others of the same age in a mainstream setting in England.

Definition of Disability in relation to SEND:

The equality Act 2010 defines disability as '*...a physical or mental impairment which has long-term and substantial effect on their ability to carry out normal day- to – day activities*'

(2.2 should read as:): 'The Equality Act 2010 section 6.1 states that: A person (P) has a disability if – (a) P has a physical or mental impairment, and (b) the impairment has a substantial and long-term effect on P's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.'

Some children have both SEN and a disability, and for the purposes of this policy, where a disabled children or young person requires special educational provision, they will also be covered by the SEND definition above.

The Equality Act 2010 sets out the legal obligations that schools, early years' providers and post-16 institutions have towards children and young people with disabilities. These obligations are laid out in the Hazelwood School SENDA (Special Educational Needs and Accessibility) policy.

For clarity, where a child or young person is covered by both SEND and Disability legislation, reasonable adjustments and access arrangements will be made for them the school. We will make '**reasonable adjustments**' to cater for a child's disability within our setting. However, there may be limitations to the degree of modifications that the school can make.

Reasonable adjustment is achieved in many ways, for example: - through targeted support within the classroom; small group and small sets; ensuring access to school facilities & school sports; internal assessment & examination arrangements; access to school clubs, trips & other activities; transition programmes for the next phase of education.

Additional provisions. Some examples are Touch Typing Club, modified timetables, small group work, assistive technology and exam concessions.

Examples of **auxiliary aids** provided for use within the curriculum are: I-pads, writing slopes, coloured overlays, enlarged print, specialist equipment (exampens, wobble cushions for example).

Reasonable adjustments, additional provisions and auxiliary aids are provided for use within the curriculum. On occasions, parents may be asked to fund certain auxiliary aids due to cost.

Hazelwood School and the SEN Code of Practice 2015

Hazelwood is not a specialist independent school within the meaning of the Children's and Families Act 2014 and is not registered with the Secretary of State under section 41. Consequently, there is no obligation for Hazelwood to publish a SEND Information report, nor comply universally with the SEND Code of Practice, whose scope is targeted at maintained schools and specialist independent schools. Hazelwood is an independent ISC school.

ISI guidance in terms of the SEND Code of Practice indicates:

As a general principle, many requirements of the SEND code 2014 do not have direct application to independent schools other than the requirement to provide suitably for children with statements/ EHC plans. However, it is good practice for schools to (i) provide Provision Maps and Learning Plans (PMLPs) or otherwise record the progress of and support for any pupils with significant learning difficulties or disabilities, and (ii) ensure that their admissions, discipline and other procedures (for example, arrangements for school trips or examinations) take account of the pupils' needs. (September 2014 update).

Hazelwood ensures good practice and maintains records of provision that is made for children with additional needs; however, these are not known as PMLPs in this setting. At Hazelwood School we use Individual Provision Plans (ISPs) in the Early Years and Individual Education Plans (IEPs) from Reception upwards. The Surrey County Council's Early Years Graduated response is followed for children at the HNEY site. It should be noted that IEPs are not a legal requirement under the SEN Code of Practice.

AIMS and OBJECTIVES

The School is committed to a policy of inclusion: one in which the teaching, learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of all children matter – including those identified as having Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Hazelwood School accepts pupils with a range of learning difference but only within the context of a mainstream academic school.

Aims

- To identify at the earliest opportunity, any pupil who may have special educational needs
- To make reasonable adjustments to provide different levels of intervention to match so far as possible the pupil's level of needs
- To ensure that children with special educational needs and disabilities have access to a relevant broad based curriculum and the ability to join in with the activities of the School
- To ensure that all SEND pupils will make progress based on their age and starting points.
- To encourage pupils to express their views and to be involved in decisions which affect their education
- To ensure that all relevant staff are aware of each pupil's needs so that they may be met in school settings
- To ensure that no pupil is discriminated against, in any area of school life, on the basis of his/her disability
- To provide pastoral care and support for all pupils so that they may develop in all areas and build a strong sense of self-esteem
- To work in partnership with parents/carers and outside agencies to achieve best outcomes for pupils; and to ensure that there is effective communication between parents and school
- To enable all pupils to become confident individuals who will be able to make a successful transition on to the next phase of their educational journey and into adulthood
- To ensure that pupil's records include information relating to their individual need and the interventions which have been provided and their outcomes
- To conduct regular reviews of pupil's progress
- To provide support for staff so that children's needs can be met in the mainstream classroom
- To provide regular INSET programmes for all staff as and when required

Objectives

1. To ensure a clear process for identifying, assessing, planning, providing and reviewing for pupils who have special educational needs and disabilities with pupils and their parents/carers
2. To develop effective whole school provision management for support of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
3. To deliver support and guidance for all staff working with pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

4. To develop our partnership with parents/carers and ensure effective communication and sharing of good practice.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Pupils with special needs are admitted to our school according to the same criteria as other pupils, provided that admission is compatible with:

- The provision of effective education for all children
- The efficient use of resources
- Prospective pupils entering the School will normally spend a minimum of half a day in the classroom with their year group. Depending on a pupil's point of entry, the following assessments may be used:
 - If they are entering Years 1 or 2, informal, in-class assessments are carried out.
 - If they are coming into Years 3-5, they may be given a literacy and numeracy assessment.
 - If prospective pupils are coming into Years 6-8, they may be assessed in verbal, non- verbal reasoning and English and numeracy.
- Should any child already have identified SEND, relevant reports should be brought to the admission interview and a copy made available for the SENCo.
- Any child who, at the admission interview, appears to have SEND, may be referred for further assessments with the SENCo, so that the School is able to ascertain if the needs of the child can be met and to provide the appropriate intervention on arrival if it is decided that the child will be offered entry. In some cases, the SENCo may recommend that a report from an outside professional is also sought. This would be from a specialist who is known to and approved by the SENCo.

Assessments for pupils wishing to join the School will take into account the nature of any difficulty or need as well as our expertise, resources and ability to offer appropriate support within that year group. The type of education offered at Hazelwood will also be a deciding factor. If the School can offer an appropriate and viable programme of support, then the SENCo and appropriate parties will follow the steps for provision outlined below and closely monitor progress. At all times, the welfare of the child and those in the class will be of paramount importance. The ultimate decision regarding the Offer of a Place rests with the Head. They will use all available evidence including consultation with external agencies to reach a decision which is considered to be in the best interests of the child.

Consideration is also given to the number of pupils and the degree of SEND requirements, already existing within each year group/cohort.

IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

At Hazelwood School we will identify the needs of each pupil by considering the needs of the whole child which are broader than just the special educational needs of the child or young person. This in turn will lead to the setting out of the arrangements we will put in place to address those needs.

Types of Need:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and mental health
- Sensory and/or physical

A pupil's needs may become apparent through:

- Teachers raising concerns in staff meetings or with the Learning Support Department
- Reading and spelling tests results.
- Assessments in Maths and English
- Inconsistencies in assessment and attainments, in particular discrepancies in Verbal Reasoning and Non-verbal Reasoning scores.
- Parental concerns
- Further specialist assessments undertaken by the Learning Support Department

When a teacher has raised a concern through informal discussions with the Learning Support Department, the SENCo will liaise with other members of staff who teach that child to discuss their progress across the curriculum. If there is a perceived need for extra support, parents will be contacted and permission requested for further 'in-house' assessments to be carried out. The outcome of these assessments will be shared with parents and relevant staff, and a programme of provision will be discussed and agreed by both teachers and parents.

It is recognised that not all parents may wish action to be taken. Hazelwood School respects this, but if the needs of the child are apparent and the school believes that outside professional advice is required, then this may have implications regarding the child's placement at the school.

Staff members are to be informed when action is to be undertaken. It may be necessary to record any action on an ISP or IEP. These may be written by class teachers, room leaders or other relevant staff, with support from the SEND Department if required.

CONSULTATIONS WITH EXTERNAL SPECIALISTS and AGENCIES

In some cases, it may become necessary to recommend to parents that their child be assessed by an educational psychologist or other external agency e.g. Occupational Therapist or Speech and Language Therapist. It is important for parents to liaise with the SENCo regarding Hazelwood's recommended approved list for such professionals. Although parents are entitled to seek their own professional advice, they should be aware that the school may not accept the report unless it is written by an approved professional. The SENCo is available to liaise and guide parents through the process and the types of assessments that are required, hence it is essential to liaise with the SENCo before having an assessment. It may be necessary, in order to understand and meet a child's needs that outside agencies need to be involved. We work in partnership with parents and would expect parents to share any reports in order that the School is aware of any recommendations that are needed to support to their child. Parents that have their child independently tested should be aware that should the agency not be recognised by the School or the results conflict with other guidelines (e.g. JCQ exam criteria) requests for assistance (e.g. a scribe/ extra time in exams) may not be granted.

The SENCo will meet with parents following an assessment to discuss the outcome and will produce a summary of the findings, which will be distributed to the relevant staff members (with the permission of the parents). The child's difficulties and recommended strategies will then be included on a 'Bookmark' for that year group and shared with all staff who work with that particular child and/or year group.

PROVISION

Learning support will be provided according to each individual pupil needs. This support will be in accordance with the proposed targets set out in the Individual Education Plan. The provision will take place following agreement and discussion with both teachers and parents. The Learning Support Department will provide either:

- In class support
- Small group withdrawal
- Individual support

Some pupils may have more than one form of support if this is deemed appropriate. Timetabling this support is agreed with parents, teachers and the pupil; in order that core subjects are not missed and pupils continue to have access to a broadly based curriculum.

In the Lower School, all class teachers and specialist staff are provided with a Bookmark for the pupils, in their respective year groups/classes, highlighting the children's difficulties and recommendations.

In the Lower School, it is the class teacher's responsibility to devise targets alongside the child and put together an IEP, where relevant, for implementation within the classroom. Specialist teachers also have access to the Bookmarks and IEPs for the pupils which they teach.

Additional information concerning the individual child is available on the staff drive, for teachers to refer to and to make notes on any pupils on the SEN register.

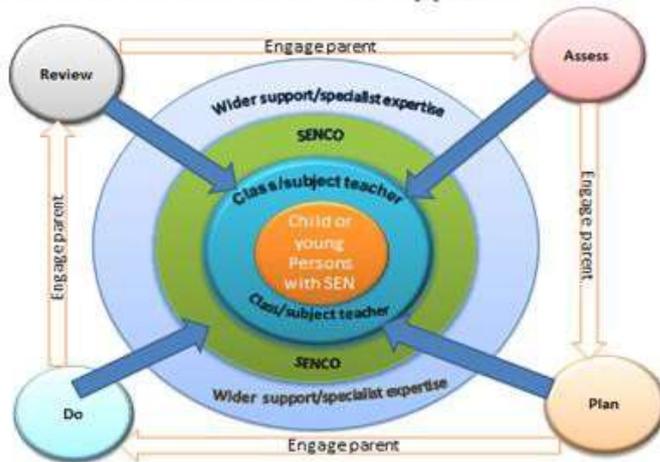
In the Upper School, all staff are provided with a Bookmark for each year group, which includes a bullet point list of an individual's needs and relevant recommended strategies to employ.

The Learning Support team offers a touch typing club as required and other support clubs are being explored.

Graduated Approach to SEN Support

- Quality First teaching and the progress made by pupils, is a core part of Hazelwood School's philosophy
- Class teacher/subject specialist teachers provide differentiated expectations for all pupils and high quality personalised teaching. This is the first step in responding to pupils who may have SEND
- All teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class
- Progress and outcomes for all pupils are monitored regularly, and we follow closely the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle (please see diagram below)
- INSET and training opportunities enable teachers to develop their knowledge and understanding of the most frequently encountered special educational needs and related supportive strategies, in order that they can respond effectively to the needs of individual pupils

The new vision: A whole school approach



Special Educational Provision

The progress of all children is carefully monitored. If, over time, difficulties are observed by teachers and/or parents, the School will take the following steps to address the pupil's problems.

Classroom Concern/Additional Needs. A low level of need, mainly supported within the classroom

- An initial statement of concern is made by a teacher, parent or other involved person (e.g. room leader in the Early Years) and informs the SENCo.
- General discussion will take place between class/subject teacher and parents to identify area of concern. The SENCo will be informed.
- Needs will be met within the normal timetable through Quality First Teaching following an Assess, Plan, Do, Review model. In the Early Years, each room has been given a SEND toolkit to assist in identifying areas of concern and to help in the recording of observations.
- Appropriate targets will be set in consultation with parents, teachers and SENCo.
- The pupil's progress will be monitored to ascertain if the gap is narrowing or greater intervention is needed. Children in Years 1-8 who have been identified as requiring monitoring, will have their name added to the Bookmark, alongside relevant strategies being implemented, in the classroom. In the EYFS, tracking sheets are used in addition to other forms of formal assessment.
- Class teachers or room leaders, with the help of the SENCo, if necessary, will implement a plan – this may be known as an ISP (Individual Support Plan) in the Early Years or an IEP (Individual Education Plan) from Year 1 upwards.
- A child may be added to the SEND register at this time, if the support is additional to and different from what is normally provided to their peers.

Special Educational Needs (and Disabilities). A mild/moderate level of need and support.

- At this stage the pupil will have met the criteria for having SEND. The child's name will be added to a Special Needs Register of names. The SEN Register is updated as and when required.

- b) Pupils' needs will be met within the normal timetable through Quality First Teaching following an Assess, Plan, Do, Review model. More support may be co-ordinated by the SENCo and this may include group work, individual lessons with a Learning Support Teacher or teaching assistant, in class support from a teaching assistant, booster groups and advice from specialists. An IEP will be developed by the Class Teacher, Learning Support Teacher and SENCo in consultation with parents. All parents have been made aware of when and where an ISP (Individual Support Plan for Early Years) or IEP is in place, and parents have been invited in to meet to discuss these.
- c) The pupil's progress will be carefully monitored to ascertain if the gap is narrowing or widening
- d) If necessary, in consultation with the SENCo, staff or parents may suggest an assessment by a recommended Clinical Psychologist (CP), Educational Psychologist (EP), SALT or other professional, to highlight problem areas and advise on remediation.
- e) We welcome the advice and recommendations from external agencies and work in partnership with them in the interests of individual pupils. In the EYFS, when staff need external guidance they use the Surrey Early Years' Advisor (when available), who will point them in the right direction. For S&L children, they are referred using NHS referral forms. In addition to this, staff inform the SENCo who will then support the child, the parents and the staff as required.
- f) In highly exceptional circumstances, it may become necessary to request additional funding from the local authority by requesting an assessment for an Education and Health Plan (EHCP), formerly known as a statement. The EHCPs are granted at the discretion of the local authority and there is no guarantee a specific child will be awarded one.

As a School, we cater for pupils with mild (occasionally moderate to severe) additional and/or special needs. We do not have the expertise or resources to support pupils with **significant and/or complex** needs or where the support of a multi-professional team is likely to be needed over a protracted period of time.

PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH AN EDUCATIONAL HEALTH CARE PLAN (EHCP)

If the School or the parents consider that the child's needs are severe and long term and meet the Local Authority's criteria for **formal assessment**, parents are encouraged to make an application for an EHCP and School will provide any necessary paperwork that is required from the Local Authority. Depending on the recommendation of the EHCP, the School reserves the right to confirm if it is able to provide the stipulated approach to and support for a child's teaching and learning needs in the long term if an EHCP is granted. The SENCo oversees any current EHCPs and ensures that all legal requirements, such as the statutory Annual Review, are met.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Head and the SENCo are responsible for the overall policy for Special Needs provision at Hazelwood School. In the EYFS, the SENCo and Head of EYFS are responsible for the provision of SEN. The SENCo has overall oversight of the day to day provision and co-ordination of the SEND policy.

It is the role of the SENCo to co-ordinate the SEND Register, liaise with the School staff, specialists and external agencies, parents and the governing body to ensure that the Special Needs and Additional Needs pupils receive support, differentiation where necessary and access to the curriculum. The learning support teachers and assistants work under the guidance of the SENCo.

Specialist Teachers and Learning Support Assistants, provide individual support, where necessary, on the school premises and in school hours, in class and on a withdrawal basis. Partaking in one-to-one lessons within school is not mandatory. Parents pay for this tuition (which is added to the school bill each term). The charge for this support is reviewed regularly by the School.

SENCo's Responsibilities

- Oversee the day-to-day operation of the School's SEND Policy
- Co-ordinate provision for children with special educational needs
- Liaise with and advise fellow teachers
- Co-ordinate the work of all the Learning Support team
- Liaise with parents of children with special educational needs
- Contribute to the in-service training of staff
- Liaise with external agencies including the LEA, educational psychologists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and health and social services (including CAMHS).
- Provide some specialist teaching to small groups or individuals in response to needs identified throughout the School
- Support class teachers in devising and reviewing IEPs.
- Keep all IEPs under review and ensure that they are evaluated.
- Carry out informal testing of individuals in response to needs identified by members of staff
- Liaise with staff according to pupil need
- Inform all staff on a regular basis of any concerns or relevant information at staff meetings

Teaching Staff Responsibilities

- All staff have a responsibility to ensure that each pupil is given every opportunity to fulfil their potential within the normal classroom situation
- All staff are expected to be aware of the Learning Support needs of all the pupils they teach and to ensure that the needs of each pupil are addressed during classes and in the prep set
- In the classroom, tasks and / or resources should be differentiated if the original task is deemed too difficult for an individual.
- Staff have responsibility to devise and update IEPs/ISPs for children with low levels of need.

RECORDS

All records of pupils receiving learning support are held by the SENCo. Copies of Bookmarks and IEPs are distributed to all relevant members of staff as described in the 'Provision' section above and can be found on the Hazelwood Shared Google Drive, under the Learning Support section.

Individual learning support teachers make a termly plan and use their planners or files to plan and record their lessons.

EXAM PROCEDURES

It is the School's policy that children should be enabled to show what they know rather than what they do not know in tests and exams. Concessions in exams are allowed when an approved Educational/Clinical Psychologist or Specialist Assessor has recommended this and JCQ requirements are met. Arrangements are made for Year 6, 7 and Year 8 children sitting mock and Common

Entrance exams to be supervised in a separate area. This needs to be supported by a School approved professional or if the SENCo has assessed that the pupil qualifies. Access to a computer/ word processor is provided, if the individual's touch typing skills are up to speed and the use of such a device has been advised by an approved outside professional and it is the 'pupil's common way of working.'

DISCONTINUING LANGUAGES

In some cases, it may be pertinent to discontinue with a language in order to provide learning support. This can affect a pupil's option of senior school and parents will need to discuss options with the SENCo and Head/Head of Senior School Transfer. Unless it is recommended by the SENCo, languages cannot be discontinued on parental request, unless it is supported by a recommendation from an approved outside professional.

EXTERNAL AGENCIES

The School maintains a list of outside professionals to whom the parents may take their children for assessment. Locally based specialists will sometimes visit the School and offer help and advice. Good relationships have been established with a range of professionals and external agencies.

COMPLAINTS

Should anyone have any concerns or complaints about the SEND Provision, they should follow the School's complaints procedure.

INSET

Staff at Hazelwood attend conferences and training days on their own specialism. There are also regular INSET days held at school on topics of general concern. Special Educational Needs have been included in this general programme.

MONITORING AND EVALUATING THE SCHOOL POLICY FOR SEN PROVISION

Both the SENCo and the Head will monitor the administration and development of special needs provision within the School. The SENCo meets with other staff from the Learning Support Department on a weekly basis, as well as liaising regularly with the Head to discuss SEN issues.

Reviewed and ratified by the Education and Compliance Committees June 2021