

SEN/D POLICY

PART 1: Overview

1.1 Introduction

At St George, all students irrespective of ability, race, gender or need are respected and valued as individuals.. This is reflected in the College organisation and curriculum structure, its assessment and rewards systems and the arrangements made for careers education and work experience. Students with SEND are integrated and included fully into the life of the College as a whole, including its social and cultural activities.

The College believes that the needs, right and entitlements of individual students are the focus of both educational and social environment and that the family and the College community should work together.

'At St George we ASPIRE to become all that God has created us to be'.

1.2 Definition of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEN/D):

Students have special educational needs if they have a *difficulty accessing the curriculum*, temporary or more long-term, which calls for *special educational provision* to be made for them.

Students have *difficulty accessing the curriculum* if they:

- Have significant difficulties in learning in comparison with the majority of children of the same age.
- Have a disability, which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age.

Students who experience difficulty in accessing the curriculum may also have a particular gift or talent. This is addressed through the Gifted and Talented Provision, in addition to provisions made for their specific need.

Special Educational Provision may be triggered when students fail to achieve adequate progress, despite having had access to a differentiated programme. Parents* and staff will be informed that the child has special educational needs and appropriate provision identified to meet the student's individual need(s) will be made.

Lack of adequate progress may be indicated by:

- Little or no progress despite the use of targeted teaching approaches and a differentiated curriculum.
- Working at levels significantly below age expectations, particularly in Literacy or Numeracy.
- Presenting persistent emotional and / or behavioural difficulties, which have not been managed by appropriate strategies usually employed.
- Sensory or physical impairments that result in little progress despite the provision of appropriate aids or equipment.

** Throughout this policy, "parents" should be taken to include all those with parental responsibility, including corporate parents and carers.*

§ See 'definition of disability' at end of this policy.

- Poor communication or interaction, requiring specific interactions and adaptations to access learning.

1.3 Curriculum Support [Provision] is achieved by:

1. Identifying and assessing individual student's needs.
2. Reporting of students' needs to all members of school staff.
3. Providing an appropriate curriculum, taking into account;
 - National Curriculum and examination syllabuses
 - Continuity and progression
 - Departmental development plans.
4. Delivering an appropriate curriculum, taking into account;
 - Suitable teaching materials
 - Effective, differentiated teaching strategies
 - A supportive learning environment
 - Encouraging a positive self-image.
5. Providing learning support through;
 - Curriculum development
 - Support teaching
 - Bespoke training
 - INSET.
6. Using outside agencies where necessary and appropriate.
7. Monitoring individual progress and making revisions where necessary.
8. Ensuring that parents / carers understand the process and involving them in the support of their child's learning. SENCO to meet with parents/carers once a term.
9. Encouraging students with SEN/D to actively participate in all decision making processes and contributing to the assessment of their needs, meetings and transition process.
10. Making regular reports to governors regarding SEN/D issues to raise awareness and to aid implementation of processes and procedures.
11. Teaching Assistants and teachers collaborate effectively.

PART 2: Structural Arrangements

2.1 SEN Coordinator:

2.2 Roles and Responsibilities:

The roles and responsibilities of school personnel with regard to special educational needs are given below. They are in accordance with Code of Practice (2014) guidelines and school job descriptions.

Governing Body:

- In partnership with the Head of School, the Governors have responsibility for deciding the school's general policy and approach to meet the needs of students with SEN/D.
- Ensuring, through the appraisal process, that the Head of School sets objectives and priorities in the school development plan, which includes provision for SEN/D.
- Monitoring the policy through the school's self-review procedures.
- All governors are informed of the school's provision, including funding, equipment and staffing.
- Reporting annually to parents on the school's policy through the website.

The Headteacher:

- Setting objectives and priorities in the school development plan, which includes SEN/D.
- Line-managing day-to-day provision for students with SEN/D, including setting a budget for supporting students within the school's overall financial resources.
- Informing the Governing body.

SEN Coordinator:

- Disseminating information and raising awareness of SEN/D issues throughout the College.
- Is responsible to the Headteacher for the management of SEN/D provision and the day-to-day operation of the policy.
- Managing and developing the roles of Teaching Assistants, through training and PM.
- Screening and identifying students.
- Co-ordinating provision for students.
- Supporting the teaching and learning of students with SEN/D.
- Keeping accurate records of all students with SEN/D.
- Drawing up, reviewing and monitoring Pupil Profile Sheets for those with SEN/D and others, as required.
- Monitoring departmental delivery of the SEN/D Policy.
- Recruiting and deploying the School's Learning Support Team, which includes Teaching Assistants.

Being responsible and accountable for the whole-school SEN/D resources and sharing with the Head of School and Business Manager responsibility for the allocation of funding devolved directly from the LA.

- Liaising with parents and carers of students with SEN/D.
- Liaising with and advising fellow teachers and support staff.
- Liaising with schools including feeder primaries and specialist settings.
- Liaising with other SENCOs, both locally and nationally.
- Liaising with outside agencies,
- Contributing to in-service training and external training (as appropriate).

- Being involved in preparing the SEN/D report, which the Headteacher forwards to the Governors.

Subject Leaders:

- Departmental Practice to include the writing of EHC plans according to the school's SEN/D Policy.
- Ensuring appropriate curriculum provision and delivery clearly stated in their schemes of work.
- Ensuring appropriate teaching resources for students with SEN/D are purchased from college capitation.
- Raising awareness, of college responsibilities towards SEN/D.

Other Staff:

“All teachers are teachers of special needs”

- Devising strategies and identifying appropriate differentiated methods of access to the curriculum, in conjunction with the Learning Support.
- Recognising that central to the work of every teacher is the cycle of planning, teaching, assessing and evaluating that takes account of the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests of the students in their classes.
- Ensuring Pupil Profile Sheets are considered in lessons.
- Monitoring progress of students with SEN/D against agreed targets and objectives.
- Be fully aware of the school's procedures for SEN/D.
- Raising individual concerns to SENCO.

Teaching Assistants

- Support students with SEN/D and the wider school population.

Plan and deliver individualised programmes where appropriate.

- Monitor progress against targets using Pupil Profile Sheets
- Assist with drawing up individual plans for students and supporting information sheet development, as required.
- Contribute to the review progress, either in person or with a written report.
- Work with small groups in or out of the classroom, under the direction of the class teacher.
- Support students on Educational Visits, as required.
- Jointly plan with teachers, where appropriate.

Other staff

- Communicate SEN/D issues to and from the College.
- Raise awareness of SEN/D issues at Departmental / College meetings.
- Keep departmental documentation up to date.
- Attend meetings as required.

2.3 Admission Arrangements

Admission arrangements are outlined in the school prospectus.

2.4 Inclusion

Our inclusion ethos is explained in our philosophy at the beginning of this policy.

2.5 Complaints Procedures

Initially, all complaints from parents or carers about their child's provision is made to the SENCO, who follows this up with relevant staff. However, if a parent or carer is not satisfied with the response given, the Complaints Procedure may be followed.

2.6 Monitoring and Evaluation of this Policy

The degree of success of the policy and its implementation will be evaluated using the following indicators:

- Recorded views of students and parents or carers, particularly at meetings.
- Recorded views by teachers on students' competence, confidence and social acceptability.
- Measurable or observable gains from students, particularly in terms of set targets, screening tests and other assessments carried out where appropriate and examination results.
- Evidence of planning and targeted expenditure for SEN/D.
- The SENCO reviewing procedures in consultation with subject leaders, governors and outside agencies.
- Feedback from depts., outside agencies
- Number of complaints received.

PART 3: Identification, Assessment and Provision

3.1 Identification

The school uses the **graduated response** as outlined in “The Code of Practice (2014)” plus subsequent amendments in May 2015. To help with this process a variety of screening procedures are used, which are then disseminated to teaching staff via the SEN/D area.

New Intake Students in Year 7.

a) Primary Liaison

Feeder primary schools are visited / contacted throughout the year prior to transfer. Any student identified as having a “learning difficulty/physical disability” and who is on SEN Support or has an EHC plan referred to the SENCO. Contact is then made with the primary school.

The LA notifies school about students who are transferring with EHC plans in the spring of their Year 6. Where practicable, the SENCO attends their Annual Review to ensure a smooth transition is made. At this meeting, the SENCO becomes the Lead Professional for the child with an EHC plan. The transition coordinator frequently attends Year 5 and Year 6, when notified. Relevant information is disseminated to teaching staff before transfer.

b) Initial Screening

- KS2 tests
- Reading, spelling, writing tests
- LUCID Lass screening
- Tests undertaken by the SENCO as identified

Screening in Other Year Groups

Other screening tests are administered when required.

Individual Diagnostic Assessments

Individual diagnostic assessments are used for students who are placed on the Summary Sheet List. A battery of tests is available, including the Access Reading, Schonell Graded Word spelling and **Visual Stress**. This information is made available to members of staff via the SEND area.

Staff Observation

- Members of staff consult with the SENCO if they notice students who may need specialist help during the school year. Evidence for that concern must be produced, prior to any testing and / or additional intervention being undertaken.
- The SENCO may then ask for additional diagnostic assessment to be undertaken for other professionals.

Referrals by Parents or Carers

- A student’s parent may express concern. Once information is gathered the process is the same as for staff referrals.
- All parental referrals are acted upon.

3.2 Provision

Teaching students with SEN/D is a whole school response. Central to the work of every teacher and subject is a continuous cycle of planning, teaching, assessment and evaluation that takes account of the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests of the students. The majority of students at St George learn and progress through these differentiated arrangements.

A Graduated Response is adopted for students identified as having SEN/D. A level and type of support is provided to enable the student to achieve adequate progress. Provision is identified and managed by the SENCO but will be planned and delivered by teaching and support staff.

Graduated Response

Wave 1 – Quality First teaching by all teaching staff.

Wave 2 - Is initiated where students have failed to make adequate progress as identified by the SENCO through the assessment arrangements as in 3.1.

Criteria for Wave 2 include:

- low Numeracy / Literacy scores
- Level 3 or below in Key Stage 2 SATs
- Teacher's observations
- Primary Teachers' comments
- Concerns from staff or parents

Provision from within the school's resources is identified to help meet the student's needs. Interventions may include:

- In class support (TAs)
- Additional learning programmes such as Literacy and Numeracy
- Smaller group sessions.
- Appropriate teaching groups / sets.
- Group support on a regular basis.
- KS3 Numeracy, Literacy and science booster classes, where appropriate.
- Additional staff training.

b) Wave 3

Where students fail to make adequate progress, despite additional provision at Wave 2, the school seeks advice and involvement from external support services.

They are requested to:

- Provide specialist assessments.
- Give advice on teaching strategies or materials.
- Provide short-term support or training for staff.

The Pupil Profile Sheet is revised and new strategies are put in place following the involvement of student and parents. Should the assessments identify that the student requires additional provision on a regular basis for an extended period then the school will apply for additional resources. The application will be evaluated against criteria established by the LA.

c) Statutory Assessment / Educational Health & Care Plan (EHC Plan)

If a student fails to make adequate progress and has demonstrated a significant cause for concern, the school and / or a parent / carer may decide to request that the LA undertakes a statutory assessment. This may lead to the student being provided with an EHC plan.

The SENCO is responsible, on a daily basis, for providing support and mentoring, allocates students with EHC Plans a specified amount of support. The process of target setting, monitoring and reviewing remains the same as at Wave 2 and Teaching Assistants are fully involved.

3.3 Pupil Profile Sheets and Reviews

The strategies that will be employed at Wave 2, Wave 3 and for students with EHC plans are recorded in the Pupil Profile and Tracking Sheets reflecting provision that is additional to, or different from, normal differentiated provision. Not all students with SEN/D have a Pupil Profile, their progress is closely monitored.

Contents of the Information Sheet can include:

- Thoughts and feelings of the student
- Access Arrangement information
- Teaching strategies to be used
- Additional provision to be put in place
- Along with data referring to attainment and specific needs.

The Pupil Profile is completed with the student's input and is communicated to all staff who support the student's learning and also to the parents or carers through review day meetings.

Pupil Profile Sheets are reviewed and updated, but also form part of the formal review process following consultation with teaching staff and new targets identified. Prior to review, teaching staff provide details where at least expected progress has not been achieved. These details with include a mix of the following:

- Outlining the steps they have taken to help students achieve their targets
- Current assessment information
- Observations
- How well the targets have been achieved
- Future concerns / targets

3.4 Continuous monitoring of individual progress

Monitoring of individual progress is completed rigorously by the College's and individual reviews, screening tests and through procedures described in the School's Assessment Policy.

3.5 Provision of an appropriate curriculum

Through their departmental development plans, the SEF and in conjunction with EHC Plans, provision for students with SEN/D is regularly reviewed and revised.

It is the responsibility of individual department at the college to ensure that the requirements of the National Curriculum are met for those students with SEN/D in partnership with the Learning Support Dept.

3.6 Provision of Curriculum Support

The Learning Support Dept. can help subject areas in the following ways (although this is not an exhaustive list):

a) Curriculum development:

- Planning with individual members of staff / departments.
- Selection / design and preparation of suitable materials.
- Selection / design of teaching strategies.

b) Support teaching:

This is achieved by working collaboratively with a subject teacher. The SENCO can assist by:

- Planning appropriate programmes of work.
- Preparation of relevant and differentiated materials.
- Team and individual teaching.
- Helping to facilitate a wide range of teaching and learning styles.
- Evaluating and reviewing what has been achieved.

c) Withdrawal

Some students with special educational needs may be withdrawn 1:1 or within small group sessions or to use technological support; the withdrawal of students is kept to an absolute minimum, in accordance with St George Catholic College inclusive ethos.

d) In-service Training

- The SENCO provides INSET for NQTs and other new staff at the school on Code of Practice procedures at St George Catholic College.
- Individual departments can ask for INSET from the SENCO as required, for specific purposes or generic training.
- Whole-school INSET, focusing on specific needs is included, where appropriate, on staff training days and during twilight sessions.

3.7 Allocation of Resources

The school is funded to meet the needs of all their students through its core budget but is additionally funded to support provision for SEN/D through:

- Deprivation and underachievement factors, based on the number of students receiving free meals and those underachieving on entry.
- Funding for specific students to meet their assessed needs.
- Delegated and designated budgets.
- Also, in some part, the Pupil Premium.

Capitation:

- The SENCO is allocated a departmental capitation each financial year.
- Individual departments are responsible, through their own capitation allowances, for identifying subject specific materials or resources for students with additional needs.

PART 4: Partnership

4.1 In school

- The SENCO liaises closely with the SMT and Progress Leaders. Information and concerns are always discussed with the appropriate member of staff.
- College systems and procedures provide the mechanism through which SEN/D issues are discussed and disseminated.

4.2 Parents

St George actively seeks to work with parents / carers and values the contributions they make.

- Parental views are recorded as part of the Annual Review procedures.
- The SENCO to meet with parents once a term.
- Parents are actively encouraged to help their child in many ways, for example: hearing their child read and learning spellings. Information sheets have been produced that may be helpful.
- Parents are encouraged to attend Parents' Evenings where their child's progress is discussed with subject teachers.
- Effective communication is achieved through regular contact with home either through letters, telephone calls or the student's planner.
- New parents can attend the Open Evening in the winter term prior to transfer.

4.3 Students

St George Catholic College acknowledges the student's role as a partner in his / her own education.

- Students are actively encouraged to be involved in decision making by attending all Reviews and to be involved with negotiating and evaluating their targets.
- Student views are recorded as part of the Review process and their views are valued and listened to.

4.4 External Support

The school aims to work in partnership with other agencies in order to provide an integrated support based on the needs of the student. The main external support agencies used by St George Catholic College include (*this is not an exhaustive list*):

- The Educational Psychologist
- The Virtual School
- The Child and Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- The School Nurse
- The Educational Welfare Officer
- Ethnic Minority Service
- Speech and Language Service
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Southampton Information Advice & Support Service
- The Secondary Behaviour Support Service (BRS)

4.5 Between Schools

The SENCO liaises with other SENCOs:

- From local secondary schools to discuss local and national SEND issues.
- At LA run 'SENCO-network' meetings.
- On the transfer of a student with SEN/D.

4.6 Transfer Arrangements

All documentation about special needs included in a student's record is transferred between schools. The SENCO deals with specific enquiries.

Additional induction days are arranged as required for all students with SEN/D and vulnerability factors.

The records of students who leave at the end of Year 11 are kept and stored in school.

Documentation relevant to the last Review is forwarded to Post 16 placements.

Definition of Disability

| Discrete SEN | Both SEN & Disability | Disability |
|---|--|---|
| Mild dyslexia Social and emotional difficulties Mild dyspraxia Minor speech impairment Mild learning difficulties | Long-term motor impairment Learning difficulties Hearing impairment / deaf Visual impairment / blind Incontinence Significant dyslexia Epilepsy Non-verbal ADHD Autism (other factors – medical / mental health) | Asthma Diabetes Cancer recovery Mental health issues Disfigurement Eating disorders Lack of limbs Sickle cell anaemia Gross obesity Very short stature |

This policy will be reviewed every year.

Date of next review: July 2019

The Governing Body agreed this policy on 10 July 2018.