



## 1. About this report

The Children and Families Act 2014 says that all schools and academies must publish a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Information Report every year. This report explains how our academy meets the needs of children with SEND. It will be published on the academy website and as part of East Sussex County Council's 'local offer' [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/localoffer).

In the report, we explain how we meet our duties towards pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. This report complements the University of Brighton Academies Trust's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy <https://www.brightonacademiestrust.org.uk/key-policies/our-policies>

We will keep this report up to date. The academy's Local Governing Body will also review this report every year, and will involve pupils and parents/carers in the review. If you want to give us feedback about the report, please contact the academy office.

## 2. Who do I contact about my child's special educational needs?

The first point of contact at the academy is your child's class teacher.

The Inclusion Lead/SENCo is responsible for managing and coordinating the support for children with special educational needs and disabilities, including those who have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. They also provide professional guidance to academy staff and work closely with parents/carers and other services that provide for children in the academy.

The key contacts at our academy are:

Principal	Mr Stuart Maclean
Inclusion Lead/SENCo	Mrs Sam Sankey
Chair of Local Board	Mr David Marks
Nominated Member of the Local Board for SEND	
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr Stuart Maclean
Designated Person Responsible for Looked After Children	Mrs Sam Sankey

Contact Details: Dudley Infant Academy,  
Harold Road,  
Hastings  
TN35 5NJ  
Tel: 01424 422981  
Website: [www.dudleyinfantacademy.org.uk](http://www.dudleyinfantacademy.org.uk)

### 3. Which children does the academy provide for?

We are an infant academy and we admit pupils aged 4 to 7 years.

We are an inclusive school. This means we provide for children with all types of special educational needs. The areas of need that are described in the SEND Code of Practice are:

- **Communication and interaction** – this includes children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and those with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) including Asperger’s Syndrome.
- **Cognition and learning** – this includes children and young people with moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD) and profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD). This also includes children and young people with specific learning difficulties (SpLD) such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.
- **Social, emotional and mental health difficulties** – social, emotional and mental health difficulties may manifest themselves in many ways including becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder
- **Sensory and/or physical needs** – this includes children and young people with visual impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI), multi-sensory impairment (MSI) and physical disability (PD)

Children and young people with any of these needs can be included with our academy community. Whilst these four categories broadly identify the primary areas of need for children and young people, our academy will consider the needs of the whole child or young person and not just their special educational needs.

If you want a place at our academy for a child with a statement or Education, Health and Care plan, this can be considered during the annual review process and/or during the admissions process. If you want a place for any other child with special educational needs, you should apply as normal, and your application will be considered in the same way as applications from children without special educational needs.

The University of Brighton Academies Trust’s Admissions Policy is available to view via our website. Other useful information is available from:

- School admissions- <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/admissions/>
- Contact Information for Families for admissions advice 0345 60 80 192

#### **4. Summary of how the academy meets the needs of children with SEND and disabilities**

The key aim of the University of Brighton Academies Trust and each of its academies is to help all pupils – including those with SEND - to achieve their very best and become successful, well-rounded individuals. We believe that all children should have access to high quality teaching, adjusted to meet their individual needs, in accordance with our statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Equalities Act 2010. Our academy regularly assesses all of our pupils so that we can identify children who may have special educational needs as early as possible.

We follow an 'assess, plan, do, and review' cycle to ensure that we meet the needs of children with special educational needs.

Where a child makes less than expected progress, the class teacher, in conjunction with the Inclusion Lead, assesses whether the child has SEND. Where a pupil is identified as having SEND, the academy will plan (in conjunction with the pupil and parent/carer) the child's learning by identifying the outcomes that are being aimed for, and by identifying and planning the provision needed to meet the outcomes. The resulting SEND support plan will then be implemented, and regularly reviewed, at least three times a year.

The 'assess, plan, do, and review' cycle helps everyone to work together to continually improve the support so that the child makes good progress.

If the child is looked after by the local authority they will have a Care Plan including Personal Education Plan (PEP) and Health plan. We will co-ordinate these plans with the SEND support plan and will involve parents and carers as well as foster carers or social workers in discussions.

#### **5. How does the academy identify children's special educational needs and disabilities?**

We aim to identify children's special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) as early as possible, so that they have the best possible outcomes. A pupil has SEND where their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to a pupil of the same age.

Our academy will assess each pupil's current skills and level of attainment on entry to the academy. We will make regular assessments of progress for all pupils. These will seek to identify pupils making less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances. This is progress which:

- is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline;
- fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress;
- fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers;
- widens the attainment gap.

The first response to less than expected progress will always be high quality teaching targeted at the pupil's area of weakness.

In identifying a child as needing SEND support, the class teacher working with the Inclusion Lead, will carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs including the individual's development in comparison to their peers and national data.

Slow progress and low attainment do not necessarily mean that a child has SEND. Equally, attainment in line with chronological age does not necessarily mean that there is no learning difficulty or disability.

Difficulties related solely to limitations in English as an additional language are not SEND. Persistent disruptive or withdrawn behaviours do not necessarily mean that a child or young person has SEND.

We are alert to emerging difficulties and respond early. For some children, SEND can be identified at an early age. However, for other children difficulties become evident only as they develop.

We recognise that parents know their children best and listen and understand when parents express concerns about their child's development. Staff also listen and address any concerns raised by the children and young people themselves.

Where it is decided to provide a pupil with SEND support, the decision will be recorded in academy records and we will formally notify parents. We are required to make data on the level and types of SEND in the academy available to the Local Authority. These data, which are collected through the School Census, are also required to produce the national SEND information report.

SEND support will be adapted or replaced depending on how effective it has been in achieving the agreed outcomes.

A school-based Additional Needs Plan (ANP) is used when, despite the appropriate targeted support, a child or young person continues to make little or no progress or to work at levels considerably below those of their peers. Many of these children are likely to be receiving support from other agencies.

Where, despite taking relevant or purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the SEND of the child or young person, the child or young person has not made expected progress, consideration will be given to requesting an Education, Health and Care assessment. This request can be made by the academy or by parents.

In considering whether an EHC needs assessment is necessary, the Local Authority will consider the evidence of the action already being taken by the academy to meet the child or young person's SEND. An EHC needs assessment will not always lead to an EHC plan.

The purpose of an EHC plan is to make special educational provision to meet the special educational needs of the child or young person, to secure improved outcomes for them across education, health and social care and, as they get older, prepare them for adulthood. The EHC plan also specifies the arrangements for setting shorter term targets at academy level.

## **6. How does the academy teach and support children with SEND?**

In common with all academies in the University of Brighton Academies Trust, we set high expectations for all pupils whatever their prior attainment. We use assessment to set targets which are deliberately ambitious. We deliver an ambitious curriculum through high quality teaching, which is differentiated, personalised and meets the individual needs of the majority of children and young people. Some children and young people need educational provision that is additional to or different from this and we use our best endeavours to ensure that such provision is put in place for these children.

Teaching and learning strategies include:

- Full access to our curriculum via differentiated learning opportunities, objectives, activities, resources and teaching approaches
- Clarity for pupils about what they are being asked to do, why they are doing it, how they are supposed to do it and how they will know if they have done well
- Use of supportive techniques such as visual timetables, modelling and demonstration
- Clear instructions and simplified language
- Support with key words and subject terminology
- Access to alternative forms of recording
- Structured routines and regular reminders of whole-school/class rules
- Reward and sanctions systems that work and take account of pupils' SEND
- A high level of Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) support throughout the academy – delivered through the PSHE curriculum, Thrive, Zones of Regulation (ZOR) and small nurture groups. This continues to be a significant focus for the academy, particularly due to the significant impact of the COVID 19 pandemic

The quality of teaching for pupils with SEND and their progress is a core part of the Trust's performance management arrangements, and our academy's approach to professional development for all teaching and support staff.

We record evidence of pupil progress, with a focus on outcomes and a rigorous approach to the monitoring and evaluation of any SEND support provided. We will record details of additional or different provision made under SEND support. This forms part of regular discussions with parents about the child's or young person's progress, expected outcomes from the support and planned next steps.

SEND support takes the form of a four part cycle: assess, plan, do and review. Decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and of what supports the pupil in making good progress and securing good outcomes. This is known as the graduated approach.

Clear dates for reviewing progress are agreed and the parent, pupil and teaching staff will be clear about how they will help the pupil reach their expected outcomes. The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the student/pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

EHC plans are used to actively monitor children and young people's progress towards their outcomes and longer term aspirations. They must be reviewed as a minimum every 12 months. Reviews will be undertaken in partnership with the child or young person and their parents, and will take account of their views, wishes and feelings. The review will focus on the child's progress towards achieving the outcomes specified in the EHC plan. The review will also consider whether these outcomes and supporting targets remain appropriate. Parents, an academy representative, a Local Authority SEND Officer and, where appropriate, a health service representative and a Local Authority social care representative will be invited to the review meeting.

Before the meeting we will:

- Give notice to all parties at least two weeks before the meeting and seek advice and information about the child;
- Send out any advice or information gathered to all those invited at least two weeks before the meeting.

We will prepare and send out a report of the meeting to everyone invited within two weeks of the meeting.

Where a child is looked after by the Local Authority, the academy will endeavour to synchronise EHC plan reviews with social care reviews.

## **7. How will the curriculum and learning environment be matched to my child's/young person's needs?**

All pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum which is suitable for all our pupils. We will set high expectations for all pupils.

We adjust the curriculum for each child with SEND to make sure that they can access the subjects at their own level, and make progress. This is called 'differentiation'. Lessons are planned to address potential areas of difficulty and to remove barriers to pupil achievement. We do what is necessary to enable children and young people to develop, learn, participate and achieve the best possible outcomes irrespective of whether that is through reasonable adjustments for a disabled child or special educational provision for a child with SEND.

We will look at the child's level of achievement and see what support they need to make good progress and reach their potential. We will use our Assessment Policy to do this. We will talk with children and parents as part of the SEND support cycle (assess, plan, do, review).

Further information about our academy's curriculum for each year group is available on our website.

All pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Lessons are planned to address potential areas of difficulty and to remove barriers to pupil achievement. We do what is necessary to enable children to develop, learn, participate and achieve the best possible outcomes irrespective of whether that is through reasonable adjustments for a disabled child or special educational provision for a child with SEND.

## **8. How are parents and carers involved in reviewing children's progress and planning support?**

We are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers. We will:

- Have regard to the views, wishes and feelings of parents;
- Provide parents with the information and support necessary to enable full participation in decision making;
- Support parents in order to facilitate the development of their child to help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood;
- Meet with the parents of children and young people at least three times each year;
- Provide regular reports for parents on their child's progress;
- Involve parents in the regular reviews of SEND support plans and, where applicable, in the annual review of EHC plans.

If there are any concerns with parents about SEND support for their child, we work with them to try and resolve these. If parents have a complaint they can use the school's complaints procedure. Details about this are available from the academy website.

## 9. How are children involved in reviewing their progress and planning support?

We are committed to involving children and young people with SEND in decisions about their learning. We will:

- Have regard to the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people;
- Provide children and young people with the information and support necessary to enable full participation in decision making;
- Support children and young people to support their development and help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood.

The following table sets out the different opportunities we have for talking to pupils about their learning:

	Who is involved?	How often?
Self - assessment	pupil, class teacher	daily
Class Circle Times	pupil, class teacher	weekly / as required
School Council	class, class teacher, school council leader	meet at least once a term and feedback to class
Pupil Voice	pupil, Inclusion Lead, class teacher, teaching assistant	as required at least once a year for a child with an ANP or EHC plan.
SEND support and review meetings	pupil, parents, class teacher, Inclusion Lead	at least 3 times a year
Additional Needs Plans	pupil, parents, Inclusion Lead, class teacher, support services	reviewed at least 3 times a year
Annual Review (EHC plans only)	pupil, parents, Inclusion Lead, class teacher, support services, local authority	once a year

## 10. How will the academy prepare and support my child to transfer to a new school/ college or the next stage of education and life?

The great majority of children and young people with SEND, with the right support, can find work, be supported to live independently, and participate in their community. In common with all academies in the University of Brighton Academies Trust, we encourage these ambitions from the start. Our SEND support includes planning and preparation for the transitions between phases of education, key stages, year groups and preparation for adult life. We will agree with parents and students/pupils the information to be shared as part of this process. We support children and young people so that they are included in social groups and develop friendships. This is particularly important when children and young people are transferring from one phase of education to another. If a child or young person has an EHC plan, this will be reviewed and amended in sufficient time prior to moving between key phases of education. The review and any amendments must be completed by 15th February in the calendar year of the transfer.

## 11. What training do academy staff have?

We regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes: identifying particular patterns of need in the academy, reviewing, and where necessary improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable students/pupils and their knowledge of the SEND most frequently encountered.

Where interventions are required, we ensure staff have sufficient skills and knowledge to deliver the intervention effectively.

The quality of teaching for pupils with SEND, with the progress made by pupils, is a core part of the University of Brighton Academies Trust's performance management arrangements and its approach to professional development for all teaching and support staff.

At Dudley Infant Academy, recent and planned training includes:

Focus of training	Delivered by	Who is involved?
Therapeutic Thinking	Inclusion Lead	Whole school staff
SEND Code of Practice	Inclusion Lead	Teaching staff
Thrive	Thrive	Thrive practitioner
MHEW (Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing)	Inclusion Lead	Whole school staff
Advanced Mental Health First Aid	Creative Education	Inclusion Lead
Attachment Disorder	Virtual schools	Whole school staff
Women and Girls with Autism	CLASS	Selected members of staff
Autism and Anxiety	CLASS	Selected members of staff
Autism and Leadership	CLASS	Selected members of staff
Communication using symbols	CLASS	Selected members of staff
Creating a Communication Friendly Environment	CLASS	Selected members of staff
Makaton	CLASS	Selected members of staff
Sensory Integration	CLASS	Selected members of staff
Jump Ahead and Sensory Circuits	CLASS	Selected members of staff
Busy Box	CLASS	Selected members of staff
Bucket Time Approach	CLASS	Selected members of staff
Precision Teaching	CLASS	Selected members of staff

## 12. How does the academy measure how well it teaches and supports children with SEND?

We regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils to make sure no-one under achieves. We look at whether our teaching and programmes of support have made a difference and also their cost effectiveness. We use information systems to monitor the progress and development of all pupils. This helps us to develop the use of interventions that are effective and to remove those that are less so.

At Dudley Infant Academy we use a range of approaches to support children with SEND. We have a full-time Thrive practitioner; members of staff trained in speech and language support, SLCN, Jump Ahead (a programme supporting the development of motor skills), dyslexia, Sensory Circuits (supporting children with sensory needs) and ASD support. We have two members of staff trained as Mental Health First Aiders. All teachers and teaching assistants are trained in specialised phonics support.

We regularly monitor the impact of interventions and adapt approaches where necessary to ensure children with SEND make progress.

### **13. How accessible is the academy and how does the academy arrange equipment or facilities children need?**

The University of Brighton Academies Trust's Equality and Diversity Policy and its Equality Objectives are available on the Trust's website, as is its Policy for Supporting students and pupils with medical conditions.

Our academy's Accessibility Plan is available on our website.

The academy building is largely wheelchair accessible. However, due to age of the building, layout of the academy and topography of the land, some pupils may need adult support to access certain areas of the school environment. We have disabled toilet facilities. We provide other appropriate support from the school budget including any resources targeted at particular groups or pupils' needs.

We receive additional top up funding where the cost of the special educational provision required to meet the needs of an individual pupil exceeds the nationally prescribed threshold.

In some circumstances, parents may request a Personal Budget. A Personal Budget is an amount of money identified by the Local Authority to deliver provision set out in an EHC plan where the parent or young person is involved in securing that provision.

### **14. How will my child/young person be included in activities with other children, including school trips?**

We are committed to eliminating discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and fostering good relationships. Through careful planning and reasonable adjustments, pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the academy together with those who do not have SEND, and are encouraged to participate fully in the life of the academy and in any wider community activity.

We work with parents and pupils to listen to their views, feelings and wishes to ensure pupils with SEND engage fully in the life of the school and in any wider community activity.

### **15. What support will there be for my child's/young person's overall well-being, and their emotional, mental and social development?**

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing (MHEW), is a significant focus at Dudley Infant Academy, particularly since the COVID 19 pandemic has caused increased levels of anxiety for parent carers and children alike.

We support the emotional, mental and social development of children and young people with SEND and disabilities by providing extra pastoral support arrangements for listening to their views and implementing measures to prevent bullying. We make provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Our full-time Thrive practitioner works 1:1 with pupils in order to support their social, emotional and mental health needs. We also have two trained Mental Health First Aiders. From September 2021 we are establishing weekly nurture groups for each class focusing specifically on supporting any children struggling with social, emotional and mental health issues.

We may work with other services to support children, such as the Education Support Behaviour & Attendance Service (ESBAS), Communication Learning and Autism Support Service (CLASS) and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

At Dudley Infant Academy we promote a positive growth mind set in all areas of our academy, including how we behave. To achieve this we endorse mutual respect, good relationships and positive use of language between all staff and learners. More information about support for behaviour, avoiding exclusions and increasing attendance can be found within our Behaviour Policy, which is available on our Academy website.

We use a range of approaches to support children's social and pastoral needs. Children are given the opportunity to contribute their views through the School Council, who meet regularly, and through completing a Pupil Voice, which allows some children on the SEND register to offer their thoughts and feelings about the support they are receiving.

## **16. What specialist services does the academy use to support children and their families?**

As part of the cycle of SEND support (assess, plan, do, review) we will consider whether we need to involve other services to make sure the child's specific needs are met. Parents are always involved in any decision to involve specialists.

We will always involve a specialist where a child or young person makes little or no progress over a sustained period or where they continue to work at levels substantially below those of pupils at a similar age despite evidence-based SEND support delivered by appropriately trained staff. The academy may involve specialists at any point to advise on early identification of SEND and effective support and interventions.

We work with parents and agencies to consider a range of evidence-based and effective teaching approaches, appropriate equipment, strategies and interventions to support the child's or young person's progress. Together, the parties agree the needs of the child or young person, responsibilities and the outcomes to be achieved through the support, including a date by which it is reviewed. Records of involvement of specialists are kept and shared with parents and teaching staff.

Where a child is looked after by a Local Authority, we will work closely with the other relevant professionals involved in the child's or young person's life as a consequence of being looked after.

We work closely with the Local Authority and other providers to agree the range of local services and confirm arrangements for making appropriate requests. Some services may be commissioned directly.

Further information on the local authority and health services are available from:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies/>

## **17. Where can I get information, advice and support?**

The 'Local offer' is available here: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/localoffer)

Impartial advice and help for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their parents and carers is available here: tel 0345 60 80 192; email

[informationforfamilies@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:informationforfamilies@eastsussex.gov.uk);

website: <http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/sendadvice>

The contact information for the academy is provided in section 2 above.

## **18. What do I do if I am not happy or if I want to complain?**

If there are any disagreements with parents about SEND support for their child, we will work with them to try to resolve these. If parents have a complaint they can use the Trust's Complaints Policy and Procedure which can be found at:

<https://www.brightonacademiestrust.org.uk/key-policies/our-policies>

## **19. Other relevant policies**

Other policies that include information that may be important for students/pupils with SEND are:

Trust policies:

- Data protection
- Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Equality Objectives
- Supporting Students and Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Safeguarding in Education and Child Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Physical Contact Guidance

Academy-specific policies:

- Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Marking and Feedback Policy

Trust Policies available on the University of Brighton Academies Trust website

Academy-specific policies available on the academy's website

Local Board SEND Link member review date – October 2022

Local Board approval date – October 2022

Review date (annual review) – October 2023