

SEN and Disability Policy September 2017

The SEND policy should be read in consultation with the Accessibility Plan, Annual SEN Report and the Parents/Carers' SEN Information Guide. Together they include details of:

- The school's admission arrangements for pupils with SEN or disabilities
- The steps school have taken to prevent pupils with SEN or disabilities from being treated less favourably than other pupils
- The facilities provided to assist access to the school by pupils with SEN and disabilities.

(Children and Families Act 2014, Part 3)

Name and contact details of SENCO

Tracey Kelly

Assistant Principal and SENCO

t.kelly@excelsiornewcastle.org.uk

0191 228 8400

National Award for SEN Coordination (NASC) status

This policy was developed by the SEND and Inclusion team within Excelsior and is available on the school website.

SEN and Disability Policy

Rationale:

At Excelsior Academy every child is equal, valued and unique. We aim to provide an environment where all pupils feel safe and can flourish. We will respond to individuals in ways which take into account their varied life experiences and particular needs.

Throughout this policy, and the following policies, we will ensure steps are taken to prevent disabled pupils from being treated less favourably than others: Accessibility Plan, Anti-Bullying Policy, Behaviour Policy, Equality Policy, Parents/Carers' SEN Information Guide, SEN Policy, Annual SEN Report.

Excelsior Academy is committed to providing an education that enables all pupils to make progress so that they achieve their best, become confident individuals living fulfilling lives and make a successful transition into adulthood. Transition into adulthood is support by Connexions who will advise and support pupils with parents, alongside staff from Excelsior, in making the correct options and pathway choices.

Objectives:

- To ensure equality of provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and disability
- To take into account legislation related to SEN and Disabilities, including part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, The SEN Code of Practice 2014, The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, The Special

Educational Needs (Personal Budgets and Direct Payments) Regulations, Section 49, The Order setting out transitional arrangements, Section 137, Equality Act 2010, The Mental Capacity Act 2005, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016, Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions 2014

- To provide full access for all pupils to a broad and balanced curriculum
- To ensure that the needs of pupils with SEN are identified, assessed, planned for and regularly reviewed to improve outcomes
- To enable pupils with SEN to achieve their potential
- To ensure parents / carers are fully engaged in decision making
- To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of pupils
- To provide advice and support for all staff working with pupils with SEN
- To provide detailed information about the arrangements for identifying, assessing and making provision for pupils with SEN

Admission Arrangements:

<http://da3.759.mwp.accessdomain.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Admissions-Policy-2017-2018-2.pdf>

Please refer to the information contained in school's Admissions Policy which can be accessed on the school website. The admission arrangements for all pupils are in accordance with national legislation, including the Equality Act 2010. This includes pupils with any level of SEND.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO):

- overseeing the day-to-day operation of the policy
- coordinating provision for pupils with SEN
- liaising with the Designated Leads where a looked after pupil has SEN
- advising on the graduated approach to providing SEN support
- advising on the deployment of the academy's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- liaising with parents of pupils with SEN
- liaising with early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals, and independent or voluntary bodies
- being a key point of contact with external agencies, especially the local authority and its support services
- liaising with potential next providers of education to ensure a pupil and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned
- working with the principals and school governors to ensure that the academy meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- ensuring that the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEN up to date

The SENCO has achieved the National Award for SEN Coordination.

The class/subject teacher:

- Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge pupils
- Promote good progress and outcomes for pupils

- Plan and teach lessons in which teaching responds to the strengths and needs of pupils with SEN
- Work closely with support staff in the planning and monitoring of interventions
- Make accurate and productive use of assessment to inform the four part cycle
- Manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment
- Fulfil wider professional responsibilities in relation to SEN e.g. the effective deployment of support staff, professional development, acting on specialist advice
- Communicate effectively with parents with regard to pupils achievements and pupils well-being

A team of support staff support individuals and groups of pupils at SEN support level of provision, both in class and through withdrawal for targeted interventions/ programmes.

The governor responsible for SEN is Hannah Sorley.

The strategic lead for welfare and designated teacher, within the academy, for child protection is Karolyn Thompson. Each of the five schools has its own designated leads.

The designated member of staff responsible for managing pupil premium is Karolyn Thompson.

Looked after children (LAC)

The SENCO and designated teacher meet on a half termly basis to ensure that arrangements are in place for supporting pupils that are looked after and also have SEN. SEN reviews and PEP meetings are coordinated and where possible meetings are held on the same day.

The designated member of staff for looked after children is Karolyn Thompson.

Access to Facilities and Provision:

Please refer to academy's accessibility plans which outlines how we:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils

.Please refer to the see Accessibility plan also available on the website.

Allocation of Resources:

The strategic Lead for Inclusion and SENCO are responsible for the operational management of the budget for SEN provision. The academy will use a range of additional funding including the notional SEN budget and, where applicable, pupil premium to provide high quality appropriate support for pupils with SEN. Where a pupil's needs exceed the nationally prescribed threshold (currently £6,000) additional funding will be applied for from the local authority.

Access to the Curriculum

All pupils should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. All pupils receive inclusive quality first teaching that is differentiated to meet individual need. Identifying, assessing, planning and review is part of Quality First Teaching. Our Parents/Carer' SEN Information Guide and Annual SEN Report provides a clear description of the details of what is available for all children with SEN through Quality First Teaching and what is additional and different provision.

Pupils with SEN are actively encouraged and supported to join in and benefit from additional activities and clubs as well as any wider community activities.

<http://da3.759.mwp.accessdomain.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Inclusion-Statement-1.pdf>

Identification, Assessment, Planning and Review Arrangements:

Excelsior Academy follows the graduated approach of assess, plan, do and review as outlined in the Code of Practice (2014). This approach is embedded in whole school practice for all pupils and every teacher is responsible for 'adapting teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils'. (Teachers' Standards 2012)

Academy assessment data, teacher judgments and, where appropriate, assessments from outside agencies are used to identify pupils who require additional and different provision. A provision map / intervention map outlines all SEN support and is updated each term.

There are 4 broad areas of need:

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

The following are **not** SEN but may impact on progress and attainment:

- Disability
- Attendance and punctuality
- Health and welfare
- English as an additional language (EAL)
- Receipt of pupil premium
- Being a looked – after child
- Being a child of service personnel

SEN support – four part cycle

The identification of SEN is built into the overall approach to monitoring the progress and development of all pupils in school. Termly pupil progress meetings support the early identification of pupils who may have SEN. Where concerns are identified an initial concerns checklist is completed and discussed with the SENCO.

Assess

The class or subject teacher, working with the SENCO, will carry out a clear analysis of a pupil's needs. This assessment will be reviewed regularly. Where appropriate, professionals will help to inform the assessment. Parents will be asked to contribute to the assessment.

Plan

Parents will be formally notified (include how this happens). Adjustments, interventions, support and review date will be agreed with staff, parents and pupil. This will be recorded on the school information system. (Reference to provision maps / intervention maps)

Do

The class or subject teacher will remain responsible for working with the pupil on a daily basis and retain responsibility for their progress and outcomes. The class or subject teacher will plan and assess the impact of support and interventions with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved. The SENCO will support the above.

Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed on the agreed date. Reviews will be held with parents at least three times per year. The class teacher or subject teacher, working with the SENCO, will revise the support in light of the pupil's progress. If a pupil does not make expected progress over a sustained period of time school will seek specialist expertise. This will inform future provision. The academy liaises with the following services - Educational Psychology Service, School Health, School Effectiveness SEN team, SEN Teaching and Support Service (SENTASS) and, when appropriate, Social Services and Looked After Children Team.

Where, despite having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the SEN need(s) of a pupil, the pupil has not made expected progress, then academy or parents will consider requesting an Education, Health and Care assessment. The academy will provide the local authority with evidence of the action taken as part of SEN support.

Further details on provision for pupils with SEN can be found in the Parents/Carers' SEN Information Guide

This guide, and the Annual SEN Report, can be found on the academy website. These outline the provision normally available for pupils with SEN as well as provision within the four broad areas of need – communication and interaction; cognition and learning; social, emotional and mental health difficulties; sensory and/or physical. The Annual SEN Report includes an evaluation of the impact of the above provision on outcomes for pupils with SEN.

Transition Arrangements

Transition is carefully planned. Excelsior academy is an all through provision, in a small schools within a school model, and therefore we aim to ensure successful transition both between schools and from school to school, if a child leaves the academy. Parents/carers will be fully involved in the planning for the transfer. Key information about SEN provision will be shared with the next school /setting through the review process.

The transition at KS3 from year 9 to 10 is supported by the SENCO and teaching staff alongside school principals. A number of pathways and subjects are available for pupils to pursue and these are discussed with both the pupil and the parent/carer. The discussions will also include the support required for the pupil to succeed in the different options and the learning needs the pupil has to access the most appropriate curriculum for the specific individual needs.

The transition from year 11 to 12 is supported by both the teaching staff and Connexions team to ensure pupils are aware of all of their options. Each pupil will have a 1:1 meeting with staff and where appropriate the Connexions advisor will also attend to look at the individual learning needs and provide impartial advice for consideration of both pupil and parent/carers. If specialist provision is required for post-16 visits will be arranged and supported by the relevant staff and advisors.

Partnership with Parents/Carers:

Excelsior Academy has positive attitudes to parents/carers and values their important role in their child's education. Parents/carers are always informed when their child is placed on the SEN list and the graduated response, outlined in the Code of Practice, is explained to them. Parents are informed about Newcastle Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service. This service provides information, advice and support at any stage of a child or young person's education, and provides an Independent Supporter for families in the process of getting an Education Health and Care Plan. Parents are fully involved in the review process. Interpreters are arranged for parents who require translation during meetings. Written information is in accessible formats and sufficient notice is given for meetings to enable parents/carers time to prepare.

Each school within the academy has a welfare manager. The welfare managers are proactive in supporting parents in a variety of ways, including home visits, liaising with agencies, organising activities and facilitating and delivering training. Early Help (formally known as Common Assessment Framework -CAF) is used to coordinate support for children and their families who have a range of needs.

Pupil Participation:

The views of all pupils are valued. Pupils with SEN are supported to be involved in decision making and to be able to express any concerns. All pupils are aware of their individual targets and a pupil review sheet is used to gather their views on their progress. The pupil review sheet is completed with the SENTA on a termly basis. Pupils in key stage 2 and above are invited to attend their termly review meeting.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Success of Provision – for further details see Annual SEN Report:

A variety of methods are used to monitor and evaluate the provision and achievements for the pupils with SEN:

Regular observation of teaching by the senior management team

Analysis of assessment data, with high expectations for the progress expected between key stages for all pupils,

Assessment records that illustrate progress over time – e.g. reading ages

Pre and post assessments for those pupils who are withdrawn for targeted interventions

Success rates in respect of individual targets

Monitoring by the governor with responsibility for SEN

The views of parents/carers and pupils. Questionnaire for parents of pupils with SEN, pupil views of additional and different provision they receive.

Regular meetings between SENCO, SENTA and head teacher / SENCO, head of year, subject leads

Provision Mapping – used as a basis for monitoring the impact of interventions.

LA SEN Review to externally validate provision and outcomes for pupils with SEN

Staff Development:

The Senior Leadership Team reviews the training needs of staff through Performance Management and pupil progress to plan appropriate CPD in relation to SEND. The SENCO ensures staff are informed of local and national developments in relation to SEN and Inclusion. Where appropriate, specialists are used to deliver the training.

Newly qualified teachers are offered support and in school training by the SENCO. See Annual SEN Information Report for details. Training is also delivered both externally and internally on all of the needs presented by all pupils who attend Excelsior Academy.

Whole school training events across the Laidlaw Schools Trust incorporate SEND for both teaching and support staff. Teaching and Learning events held within the academy have strong focus on SEN and how to support pupils with varying needs.

Medical Conditions

Excelsior Academy will follow the recommendations of the Children and Families Act 2014 with regard to arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions. Where a pupil also has SEN, their provision will be planned and delivered in a coordinated way with their healthcare plan.

The Complaints Procedure:

Initially an attempt will be made to resolve a complaint about SEN provision at school level, within one week of the complaint having first been made. The procedure is firstly that the key worker / class teacher / form tutor attempts to resolve matters, then if required the SENCO and /or head teacher becomes involved. If this is not resolved the complaint may be referred to the executive principal for the academy.

If the complaint is unresolved, then the person making the complaint is advised of their rights under Section 23 of the Education reform Act to make a complaint. The Governing Body will consider the complaint, after which, if necessary the LA will become involved. School will inform parents/carers of the local authority's commissioned independent disagreement resolution service. Details can also be found in the Local Offer.

<http://da3.759.mwp.accessdomain.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Procedure-for-Raising-Concerns-and-Raising-Complaints.pdf>

Date agreed by governing body:

Review due:

Date reviewed

Related policies: Admissions, Accessibility Plan, Annual SEN Report, Anti-bullying Policy, Looked After Children, Medicines in School, Safeguarding, Teaching and Learning, Transition.