

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy

Stone Lodge Therapeutic School



Stone Lodge School

Approved by:	Ollie Sharp	Date: March 2023
Last reviewed on:	Sept 2025	
Next review due by:	September 2027	

1. Aims and objectives

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

- Make sure our school fully implements national legislation and guidance regarding pupils with SEND
- Ensure through our values of care, understanding and ambition all pupils flourish to reach their potential.
- Set out how our school will:
 - Support and make provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
 - Provide pupils with SEND access to all aspects of school life
 - Help pupils with SEND fulfil their aspirations and achieve their best
 - Help pupils with SEND become confident individuals living fulfilling lives
 - Help pupils with SEND make a successful transition into adulthood
 - Communicate with pupils and their parents or carers and involve them in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEND
- Communicate with, and involve, pupils with SEND and their parents or carers in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Make sure the SEND policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff

2. Vision and values

At our school we will provide all pupils with access to a broad and balanced curriculum, showing due regard to their SEMH needs.

We are committed to making sure all our pupils have the chance to thrive and supporting them to meet their full potential.

We are focused on creating an inclusive environment, where provision is tailored to the needs and abilities of pupils, no matter how varied.

3. Legislation and guidance

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

- Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN co-ordinators (SENCOs) and the special educational needs (SEN) information report
- The Equality Act 2010 (section 20), which sets out the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes having a disability) and those who don't share it

➤ The Governance Handbook, which sets out governors responsibilities for pupils with SEND

4. Inclusion and equal opportunities

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

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

5. Definitions

5.1 Special educational needs

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

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

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

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

5.2 Disability

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

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

5.3 The 4 areas of need

The needs of pupils with SEND are grouped into 4 broad areas. Pupils can have needs that cut across more than 1 area, and their needs may change over time.

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

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	<p>Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or do not understand or use the social rules of communication.</p> <p>Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.</p>

AREA OF NEED	
Cognition and learning	<p>Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers. A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific learning difficulties, which impact 1 or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia • Moderate learning difficulties • Severe learning difficulties • Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment
Social, emotional and mental health	<p>These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder • Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder • Suffered adverse childhood experiences <p>These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.</p>
Sensory and/or physical	<p>Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided.</p> <p>Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment • A physical impairment <p>These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.</p>

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The SENCO

The SENCO at our school is Hayley Johnson

They will:

- Liaise with parents about the pupil's needs and any provision made
- Work with the Principal and governors to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils, including those who have EHC plans

- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that pupils receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils
- Advise on the deployment of the resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- Be a point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authorities and their support services, and work with external agencies to ensure that appropriate provision is provided
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to make sure that the pupil and their parents are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned
- When a pupil moves to a different school or institution: Make sure that all relevant information about a pupil's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution in a timely manner
- Work with the Principal and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Make sure the school keeps its SEN records of all pupils up to date and accurate
- With the Principal, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's Governor's report and any updates to this policy
- With the Principal and teaching staff, identify any additional SEN needs

6.2 Governing Body

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

Do all it can to make sure that every pupil gets the support they need

- Inform parents when the school changes the educational provision or SEN arrangements for their child
- Make sure that the school has arrangements in place to support any pupils with medical conditions
- Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- Provide an annual report for parents on their child's progress
- Challenge and support school leaders in continually improving the school based on the ethos of care, understanding and ambition.
- Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND
- Make sure that all pupils from year 8 until year 13 are provided with independent careers advice
- Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at governance meetings

- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of the school and ensure the Principal and SENCO update the governors on this
- Work with the Principal and SENCO to determine the strategic development of the school

6.4 The Principal

The Principal will:

- Work with the SENCO and governors to determine the strategic development of the school
- Work with the SENCO and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for pupils and their progress
- Have responsibility for monitoring the school's budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual pupils
- Make sure that the SENCO has enough time to carry out their duties
- Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of pupils on the SEND register
- Advise the LA when a pupil needs an early review
- With the SENCO, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- With the SENCO ensure that all staff received up to date training to assist them to meet the needs of pupils
- Create an environment where the pupils not just see their needs as disabilities, but also special skills
- With the SENCO, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally

6.5 Class teachers

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is differentiated to meet pupil needs through a graduated approach
- The progress and development of every pupil in their class
- Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- Working with the SENCO to review each pupil's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision
- Ensuring they follow this SEND policy
- Communicating with parents regularly to:
 - Set clear outcomes and review progress towards them

- Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set outcomes
- Identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school
- Listen to the parents' concerns and agree their aspirations for the pupil

6.6 Parents or carers

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

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

- Invited to annual meetings to review the provision that is in place for their child
- Asked to provide information about the impact of SEN support outside school and any changes in the pupil's needs
- Given the opportunity to share their concerns and, with school staff, agree their aspirations for the pupil
- Given an termly report on the pupil's progress
- Attend ITACs (Individual Team Around The Child) meetings after school to meet with the school staff to discuss, how in liaison with home, the school can better support their child

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

6.7 The pupil

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

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

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

7 Consulting and involving pupils and parents

The school will put the pupil and their parents at the heart of all decisions made about how the school will support their child.

These conversations will make sure that:

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

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

We will formally notify parents if it is decided that a pupil will receive special educational provision.

8 The graduated approach to SEN support

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

1. Assess

The pupil's teachers, therapists and the SENCO will carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. The views of the pupil and their parents will be taken into account. The school may also seek advice from external support services. This may include additional assessments from Educational or Clinical Psychologists.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly to help make sure that the support in place is matched to the pupil's need. For many pupils, the most reliable way to identify needs is to observe the way they respond to an intervention.

2. Plan

In consultation with the parents and the pupil, the teacher and the SENCO will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review.

All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of the pupil's needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are needed. This information will be recorded on our management information system and will be made accessible to staff in an individual education plan.

Parents will be fully aware of the planned support and interventions and may be asked to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

3. Do

The pupil's class or subject teacher retains overall responsibility for their progress.

Where the plan involves group or 1-to-1 teaching away from the main class or subject teacher, they still retain responsibility for the pupil. They will work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.

The SENCO will support the teacher in further assessing the pupil's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on how to implement support effectively.

4. Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

We will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. This evaluation will be based on:

- The views of the parents and pupils
- The level of progress the pupil has made towards their outcomes
- The views of teaching staff who work with the pupil

The teacher and the SENCO will revise the outcomes and support in light of the pupil's progress and development, and in consultation with the pupil and their parents.

8.1 Levels of support

The school support levels will be determined by the EHCP and subsequent presenting needs.

The school will commission support not required by the EHCP if it feels that it is in the pupil's best interests – for example psychotherapy.

The therapeutic input will be banded in 2 levels – Enhanced and specialist.

- Universal – the pupil needs will be assessed and staff trained and consulted on how to meet them

- Enhanced – the pupil will receive interventions planned and informed by a therapist but delivered by staff
- Specialized – the pupil will receive direct input from a therapist through one to one and group sessions.

8.2 Evaluating the effectiveness of the provision

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils:

- Tracking pupils' progress academically and through their IEP targets
- Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support
- Using pupil questionnaires
- Monitoring by the SENCO
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans
- Getting feedback from the pupil and their parents
- External qualifications

9. Expertise and training of staff

Training is a high priority for staff. Training will regularly be provided to teaching and support staff. The Principal and the SENCO will continuously monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.

The school will deliver training to other provisions and also send staff for training externally through current links with partners – including The University of Leicester.

10. Links with external professional agencies

As a specialist therapeutic provision the school has extensive in house support including 2 speech and language therapists and an occupational therapist .The school recognises that to meet all the needs of every pupil it will need to commission additional support. Whenever necessary the school will work with external support services such as:

- Clinical Psychologists
- Educational psychologists
- General practitioners or pediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Social services

11. Admission and accessibility arrangements

Pupil admissions are through consultations with local authorities. Once consultation paperwork has been received it will be read and discussed in a referrals meeting. This meeting – involving the senior leadership team and SENCO (plus therapist if required).

The Principal will then discuss with parents and social workers (if applicable) and arrange a home visit, followed by a visit to the school.

Once placement has been agreed by all parties a transition plan will be put in place and the parents will meet all the staff to discuss their child.

12. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

12.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND policy. We will do this by evaluating whether or not we are meeting our objectives set out in section 1.

We will evaluate how effective our provision is with regards to:

- Pupils' progress and attainment
- Whether pupils with SEND feel safe, valued and included in the school community
- Comments and feedback from pupils and their parents
- Social, emotional progress
- Outcomes and destinations for pupils

13.2 Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by Hayley Johnson every year. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

It will be approved by the full governing board.

14. Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to the following documents:

- Accessibility plan
- Behaviour policy
- Attendance policy
- Safeguarding / child protection policy
- Complaints policy