



UNICORN SCHOOL

SEND POLICY

This policy applies to all children at Unicorn School, including those in the EYFS.

Please also refer to: Inclusion Statement, Accessibility Plan, Gifted & Talented Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy

Parents may read this policy on the public section of the website.

RESPONSIBILITY

Staff Member: Jennifer Renna SENCo (including EYFS)
Governors' Committee: Education & Staffing

Last Reviewed:	June 2023
Approved (Committee):	October 2023
Noted (Governors):	November 2023

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS and DISABILITIES SEND POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching of pupils with learning difficulties and children with special educational needs (SEN) at Unicorn School. It is written with due regard to:

- The SEND Code of Practice 2015: 0-25 years (DfE and Department of Health, January 2015)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>
- The Children and Families Act (2014)
- The Equality Act (2010)
- Mental health and behaviour in schools (March 2015)
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Unicorn School aims to provide an educational setting in which the different educational needs of each child are understood and met by every member of staff. The school also aims to ensure that all children have full access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.

DEFINITIONS

Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)

In accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice, 0 – 25 year (2014) (SEND Code 2015), a child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders the child from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

Four areas of need can be identified:

1. Cognition and learning needs, including specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia.
2. Communication and interaction needs, including
 - SLCN (Speech, language and communication needs)
 - Autistic spectrum disorder
3. Behavioural, emotional and social development needs
4. Sensory and/or physical needs, including visual or hearing impairment.

EAL (English as an Additional Language)

Please see Policy, English as an Additional Language.

A child must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty because the language or form of language at home is different from the language in which he or she will be taught. Nevertheless, when Unicorn School accepts a pupil whose first language is not English, provision will be made to enable them to access the curriculum based on their individual needs, if required.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To identify and assess children with special educational needs at the earliest opportunity, ensuring that children make progress by differentiated work and when appropriate, additional support.
- To recognise and acknowledge the difficulties that children with SEND encounter and to address these difficulties in a positive and encouraging way.
- To adopt the graduated approach of action, as recommended by the Special Needs Code of Practice (September 2014, updated January 2015), and follow the four stages of action: Assess, Plan, Do, Review.
- To initiate and maintain effective communication between the school, parents of children with SEND and the children themselves to develop a partnership of support to enable joint planning between all parties. Communication may also extend to outside agencies should that be necessary.
- To encourage all staff to share in the responsibility involved in the successful planning and provision for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
- To ensure that children with SEN engage in the activities of the setting alongside children who do not have SEN.
- To focus on inclusive practice and removing barriers to learning.
- To maintain records of children under our care as required under the EYFS framework and to make these records available to parents.
- To make sure the information on how the setting supports children with SEN and disabilities is available to parents.
- To ensure that good practice is followed so that admissions, discipline and other procedures (for example arrangements for school trips and examinations) take into account pupils' learning difficulties or disabilities.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Head is responsible for:

- ensuring provision for children with SEND as described in the SEND Policy
- keeping the Governing Body informed of developments in SEND provision.
- Ensuring there is training and support for teachers to meet the learning needs for children with SEND

The Head of Learning Support /SENCo is responsible for:

- liaising with the Head regarding training and support for staff
- contributing to appropriate in-service training of staff
- giving one-to-one support lessons for pupils with SEND
- overseeing the day to day operation of the school's SEND policy.
- supporting the staff in the interpretation of the SEND policy, its development and evaluation.
- ensuring that Provision maps and Individual /Group Education Plans are in place.
- keeping records on pupils with SEND and maintaining files containing current Provision Maps and cumulative information such as specialist reports, previous Provision Maps and reviews.
- liaising with parents, teachers and pupils in selecting learning targets to suit the needs of the individual pupil.
- recommending to parents, where appropriate, further formal assessment of the child e.g. by the SENCo or, where necessary, full diagnostic assessment e.g. by an external Educational Psychologist.
- ensuring parents are closely involved throughout and that their insights inform action taken by the setting
- liaising with external agencies including educational psychologists, independent tutors and medical bodies.
- purchasing and organising resources for SEND.

Class Teachers are responsible for:

- the learning of all pupils in their class, including those with SEND.
- familiarising themselves with the individual learning needs of pupils with SEND by liaising with the previous class teacher and checking on Target Tracker for notes inputted by the SENCo.
- using the proper procedures for identifying, assessing and making provision for pupils with SEND.
- informing the SENCo and parents of any pupils they identify as having an area of need which requires learning support.
- completing 'Note of Concern' form and passing it on to the SENCo.
- discussing with parents, and when appropriate the pupil, the targets and strategies suggested in the pupil's Provision Map.
- monitoring the progress of pupils with SEND
- adapting teaching methods where reasonable and practical to help pupils with SEND reach their full potential
- attending inset training for pupils with SEND.

Learning Support Teachers and Teaching Assistants are responsible for:

- supporting children individually or in small groups.
- contributing to records and assessment procedures
- participating in meetings
- assisting class teachers.

IDENTIFICATION, ASSESSMENT AND PROVISION

Unicorn School adopts a graduated response when addressing any pupil's learning difficulty. This is a four-step process of action: ASSESS, PLAN, DO, REVIEW.

ASSESS

Initial Concerns

Formative assessments are used by class and subject teachers to monitor the progress of individual pupils. These may include formal tests as well as ongoing informal observations. For further details of assessment please see the *Assessment and Recording* policy.

If a child's progress is causing concern, the class teacher will:

- raise the initial concern with the pupil's parents and talk to the pupil if appropriate.
- review the teaching strategies currently employed and consider ways in which they might be developed and differentiated.
- meet with the SENCo to discuss the learning and emotional needs of the child and the implementation of additional in-class support by the class teacher.
- continue to monitor and review the pupil's progress.

The SENCo will:

- carry out an observation/initial assessment of the child to inform discussion about ways forward to help the child access the curriculum.
- support and advise the class teacher about in-class support and differentiation strategies.

Many initial concerns are dealt with effectively by the support strategies implemented in the classroom. However, if a child does not make significant progress despite this support, it may be decided that there should be additional input from a specialist teacher.

The class teacher will complete a 'Note of Concern' form and pass onto the SENCO, who will liaise with the child's parents regarding the arrangement of a learning support teacher to provide their child with one-to-one teaching sessions. It is likely that at this stage the child's name is put on the SEN register.

PLAN

The SENCO will work collaboratively with the class teacher and the parents to devise a Provision Map for the child with personalised targets. This plan will be implemented by the SENCO or a Learning support teacher in one-to-one/paired lessons outside the classroom. Where possible, the SENCO may also plan to support the child in the class in specific lessons or with a small group intervention outside the classroom.

The child's Provision Map will show:

- the short-term targets set for, or by, the pupil
- the type of provision to be put in place (phonics, spelling, reading, maths, handwriting)
- success criteria
- when the plan is to be reviewed
- outcomes
- classroom-based differentiation strategies and approaches

Group Education Plan

When pupils in the same class have a common target involving common strategies, a group learning plan may be drawn up rather than a Provision Map for each child.

DO

At this stage, specific support will be put in place outside of the classroom. Pupils will be taught by the SENCO or a Learning Support teacher and individualised targets will be created for the child. The child will use these targets for self-assessment, both at the beginning and end of the intervention, and will be encouraged to be actively involved in their own learning. Where possible, the child will be offered opportunities to put forward their own suggestions for future targets and will be made aware of how they can work towards improving their skills with the support of their Learning Support teacher.

The class or subject teacher remains responsible for working with the child on a daily basis and for differentiating the curriculum, where appropriate.

REVIEW

The child's Provision Map is reviewed twice yearly. Regular monitoring and review will focus on the extent to which planned outcomes have been achieved. Targets are replaced as and when they are found to be secure.

If the pupil is not achieving their targets and/or not making expected progress, the SENCO may carry out a broader range of assessments in order to identify more specific areas of strength and weakness.

If teachers and parents feel that further advice or assessment would be helpful, the school may recommend that the parents seek an assessment of the child from/given by one or more of the following professionals:

- Educational Psychologist
- Teacher Assessor
- Clinical Psychologist
- Psychiatrist
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Optometrist
- Audiologist
- Paediatrician
- GP
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

EHC PLANS (EDUCATIONAL and HEALTH CARE)

Most pupils' needs are met by the strategies put in place by School Monitoring or being on the school SEN register. A very small number of pupils may have difficulties of a more serious or long-term nature. In such cases, the school will contact the Local Authority with a view to obtaining an Educational and Health Care Plan for a child. This plan will outline desired outcomes (formulated by the child, family and professionals around the child) and the budget needed to provide support towards those outcomes. There will be an Annual Review of the EHC plan with all those involved in supporting the child.

PROVISION AND REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Unicorn School endeavours at all times to make reasonable adjustments so that all our children can access the curriculum. These adjustments include:

- provision of 'ad hoc' small extra support groups throughout the school for those children identified as in need
- provision of ICT resources including laptops and iPads for identified children
- communication with outside professionals for individual children
- use of space within Unicorn for outside professionals such as Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists to work with children in school time
- provision of equipment ranging from writing slopes to fiddle pencils for identified children
- investigation of and provision of software and related resources for a variety of learning issues such as working memory weaknesses or occupational therapy issues in order to support children within school
- for those children failing to make expected progress.

EXAMINATION CONCESSIONS

In order to qualify for extra time in an examination, the school will adhere to exam board regulations set out by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). Pupils with extra time will complete it in a different coloured pen to reflect their need for it.

If a report from an Educational Psychologist/ Teacher Assessor or other professional, such as an Occupational Therapist, recommends the use of a laptop in class, pupils should aim to type faster than they write and touch typing classes are suggested to support this. If a laptop is part of a normal way of working in lessons then it may be used in examinations.

As recommended in the EYFS Statutory Framework (2014)

“The Profile must be completed for all children, including those with special educational needs or disabilities. Reasonable adjustments to the assessment process for children with special educational needs and disabilities must be made as appropriate. Providers should consider whether they may need to seek specialist assistance to help with this.”

Regular individual extra support lessons within school are subsidised by the school but parents are required to make a contribution towards the cost. Lesson costs will be added to the termly bill.

Any parent who wishes his/her child to have extra support outside school is advised to discuss the matter with the Class Teacher, who may be able to recommend a tutor.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

At Unicorn School every effort is made to work closely with parents at every stage. We value the role they play in the identification and support of SEN pupils.

- Initially a parent will be notified by the class teacher if there are any concerns about his/her child.
- If a child is receiving additional support from a specialist teacher, the parents will be offered an individual appointment with the SENCo. The SENCo is available at Parent Interview evenings or other appointment times can be arranged.
- A parent can request an additional meeting if he/she wishes.
- Any meetings, whether teacher or parent initiated, if appropriate, are shared with relevant members of staff and senior leadership team.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Unicorn School's commitment is that no sensitive or confidential information will be made available to others except on parental instruction.

COMPLAINTS

Please refer to the Complaints Procedure.

Amended by JR, June 2023
Amended by JR, October 2020
Amended by JR, February 2018
Re-written fully by JR, Sept 2015