



## **HARMONIZE ACADEMY**

# **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS POLICY and SEN INFORMATION REPORT**

<b>POLICY WRITTEN BY:</b>	<b>PRINCIPAL</b>
<b>DATE POLICY PREPARED:</b>	<b>MARCH 2013</b>
<b>DATE FIRST RATIFIED BY GOVERNING BODY:</b>	<b>APRIL 2013</b>
<b>DATE POLICY REVIEWED:</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 2022</b>
<b>DATE FOR NEXT REVIEW:</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 2023</b>

**Trust, Respect, Compassion, Forgiveness**

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## 1. Aims

Our SEN policy and information report aims to:

- Set out how our school will support and make provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN)
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEN

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy and information report 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 SEN and disabilities
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN co-ordinators (SENCOs) and the SEN information report

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## 3. Definitions

A pupil has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for 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 the majority of 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.

## **4. Roles and responsibilities**

### **4.1 The SENCO**

The SENCO is Gerard Tiernan

He will:

- Work with the Principal and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the school
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEN policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to ensure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high quality teaching
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- Be the point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority and its support services
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to ensure pupils and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned
- Work with the Principal and governing board to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Ensure the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEN up to date

### **4.2 The SEN governor**

The SEN governor will:

- Help to raise awareness of SEN issues at governing board meetings
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEN and disability provision within the school and update the governing board on this
- Work with the Principal and SENCO to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the school

### **4.3 The Principal**

The Principal will:

- Work with the SENCO and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the school
- Have overall responsibility for the provision and progress of learners with SEN and/or a disability

### **4.4 Class teachers**

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- 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 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 SEN policy

## **5. SEN information report**

### **5.1 The kinds of SEN that are provided for**

Our school currently provides additional and/or different provision for a range of needs, including:

- Communication and interaction, for example, autistic spectrum disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, speech and language difficulties
- Cognition and learning, for example, dyslexia, dyspraxia,
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties, for example, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD),
- Sensory and/or physical needs, for example, visual impairments, hearing impairments, processing difficulties, epilepsy
- Moderate/severe/profound and multiple learning difficulties

### **5.2 Identifying pupils with SEN and assessing their needs**

We will assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment on entry, which will build on previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. Subject teachers will make regular assessments of progress for all pupils and identify those whose progress:

- 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

This may include progress in areas other than attainment, for example, social needs.

Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a pupil is recorded as having SEN.

When deciding whether special educational provision is required, we will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the pupil and their parents. We will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether we can provide it by adapting our core offer, or whether something different or additional is needed.

### **5.3 Consulting and involving pupils and parents**

We will have an early discussion with the pupil and their parents when identifying whether they need special educational provision. These conversations will make sure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty
- We take into account the parents' concerns
- 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 when it is decided that a pupil will receive SEN support.

## **5.4 Assessing and reviewing pupils' progress towards outcomes**

We will follow the graduated approach and the four-part cycle of **assess, plan, do, review**.

The class or subject teacher will work with the SENCO to carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. This will draw on:

- The teacher's assessment and experience of the pupil
- Their previous progress and attainment and behaviour
- Other teachers' assessments, where relevant
- The individual's development in comparison to their peers and national data
- The views and experience of parents
- The pupil's own views
- Advice from external support services, if relevant

The assessment will be reviewed regularly.

All teachers and support staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided, and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required. We will regularly review the effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress.

## **5.5 Supporting pupils moving between phases and preparing for adulthood**

We will share information with the school, college, or other setting the pupil is moving to. We will agree with parents and pupils which information will be shared as part of this.

All students will receive guidance from careers advisers during year 11.

## **5.6 Our approach to teaching pupils with SEN**

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all the pupils in their class.

High quality teaching is our first step in responding to pupils who have SEN. This will be differentiated for individual pupils.

We will also provide the following interventions:

- Reading support
- Small group intervention support in English, Math's, Science.
- 1:1 intervention in required subject

## **5.7 Adaptations to the curriculum and learning environment**

We make the following adaptations to ensure all pupils' needs are met:

- Differentiating our curriculum to ensure all pupils are able to access it, for example, by grouping, 1:1 work, teaching style, content of the lesson, etc.
- Adapting our resources and staffing
- Using recommended aids, such as laptops, coloured overlays, visual timetables, larger font, etc.
- Differentiating our teaching, for example, giving longer processing times, pre-teaching of key vocabulary, reading instructions aloud, etc.

## **5.8 Additional support for learning**

We have qualified teaching assistants in every lesson

Teaching assistants will support pupils on a 1:1 basis when required

Teaching assistants will support pupils in small groups when required

We work with the following agencies to provide support for pupils with SEN:

- Education Psychologist
- Clinical Psychologist
- School nurse
- Speech & Language Service
- Outreach support service
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service – (CAMHS)
- Independent Careers Information, Advice and Guidance
- Referring Agency
- Liverpool City Council (SEN dept.)

## **5.9 Expertise and training of staff**

Our SENCO has seven years' experience in this role and has successfully passed the National Award in Special Educational Needs Coordination (NASENCO). This is a full-time position within the Academy and the SENCO does not have any teaching commitment.

We have an Assistant SENCO who has also passed the NASENCO and a Student Support Coordinator who is responsible for arranging 1:1 support for students if required. Additionally, there is a team of twenty Teaching Assistants.

We use specialist staff for reading, spelling and comprehension intervention.

## **5.10 Securing equipment and facilities**

*All pupils with SEN are provided with the equipment and extra facilities needed to help them access the curriculum. These include:*

- Colored Overlays
- Lap tops or iPads
- Screen filters
- Hand writing pens/pencils
- Photography equipment
- Coloured exercise books

## **5.11 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision**

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- Reviewing pupils' individual progress towards their goals each half term
- Reviewing the impact of interventions after 6 weeks
- Using pupil questionnaires
- Monitoring by the SENCO and Assistant SENCO
- Using provision maps to measure progress
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with statements of SEN or EHC plans

## **5.12 Enabling pupils with SEN to engage in activities available to those in the school who do not have SEN**

All of our enrichment sessions, extra-curricular activities and school visits are available to all our pupils,

All pupils are encouraged to take part in sports day/school plays/special workshops, etc.

No pupil is ever excluded from taking part in these activities because of their SEN or disability.

## **5.13 Support for improving emotional and social development**

We provide support for pupils to improve their emotional and social development in the following ways:

- The Principal, the Vice Principal, the SENCO and two assistant principals operate an open-door policy and are available throughout the school day if pupils require
- Pupils with SEN meet every two weeks with either a representative from their local authority SEN department or with the SENCO
- Pupils with SEN are also encouraged to meet regularly with our school Clinical Psychologist
- All pupils meet with their mentor weekly to discuss issues around behavior and attendance
- The SENCO is qualified in Mental Health First Aid and Whole School Approach Senior Mental Health Training

We have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying.

## **5.14 Working with other agencies**

We work with the following agencies to provide support for pupils with SEN:

- Education Psychologist
- Clinical Psychologist
- School nurse
- Speech & Language Service
- Outreach support service
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service – (CAMHS)
- Independent Careers Information, Advice and Guidance
- Referring Agency
- Liverpool City Council (SEN dept.)
- Local Authority social services
- Targeted services

## **5.15 Complaints about SEN provision**

Complaints about SEN provision in our school should be made to the SENCO in the first instance. They will then be referred to the school's complaints policy.

The parents of pupils with disabilities have the right to make disability discrimination claims to the first-tier SEND tribunal if they believe that our school has discriminated against their children. They can make a claim about alleged discrimination regarding:

- Exclusions
- Provision of education and associated services
- Making reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services

## 5.16 Contact details of support services for parents of pupils with SEN

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/special-educational-needs/>

## 5.17 Contact details for raising concerns

If you have concerns or wish to speak to someone at the Academy regarding SEN please contact:

Gerard Tiernan  
SEN Coordinator  
Harmonize Academy  
Phillimore Road  
L6 6DL  
0151 203 1934

[Gerard@harmonizeacademy.org](mailto:Gerard@harmonizeacademy.org)

## 5.18 The local authority local offer

Our contribution to the local offer is: [Harmonize Academy SEN and Disability Offer](#)

Our local authority's local offer is published here: <https://liverpool.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/special-educational-needs/send-local-offer/>

## 6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy and information report will be reviewed by Gerard Tiernan (SENCO) **every year**. It will also be updated if any changes to the information are made during the year.

It will be approved by the governing board.

## 7. Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to our policies on:

- Accessibility plan
- Behaviour
- Equality information and objectives
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Disability Policy