

## Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Policy

**It is the responsibility of all Cathedral Schools Trust employees and volunteers to familiarise themselves with the contents of all Trust policies and any amendments hereafter.**

### Policy history

1. Taken to the Cathedral School Trust board December 2017.
2. Approved by Cathedral Schools Trust board 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017

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<b>SIGNED CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>		<b>PRINT NAME N Blundell</b>
<b>SIGNED CHAIR OF TRUST BOARD</b>		<b>PRINT NAME S Parsons</b>

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### **1. Introduction**

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Cathedral Schools Trust (CST) is committed to the principle that every pupil has individual needs, has an entitlement to access the full curriculum offer and be fully included in all aspects of the life of the academy/free school, irrespective of ability, race, gender or need and should be respected and valued as individuals.

CST will address the needs of different groups of learners and deliver high quality learning and teaching practices which will allow every learner to achieve their potential. Where required, CST will adapt the environment and equipment, as much as is practicably possible, as well as seeking specialist advice from outside the organisation to enhance its ability to support all learners. CST will seek to remove all barriers to learning and achievement.

## **2. Aims and Objectives**

The aims of this policy are to ensure that:

- an inclusive approach to education which meets the needs of pupils with SEND is communicated to and promoted by all stakeholders
- Every academy/free school is committed to inclusion, removing barriers to learning and preparing their pupils with SEND for successful transition to adulthood
- high quality learning and teaching is promoted for all learners
- learners with special educational needs join in the activities of the academy/free school together with those who do not have special educational needs, so far as it is compatible with the efficient education of other learners
- CST meets its legal obligation to provide access to the curriculum for all learners whilst recognising their individual needs
- where the head teacher or the appropriate governor has been informed by a local authority that a learner has special educational needs, those needs will be made known to staff
- all CST staff are aware of the importance of identifying and providing for learners who have special educational needs
- the head teacher, staff and governors report annually to parents on the effectiveness of this policy and provision for learners with special educational needs
- all staff are clear regarding roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the policy.

CST recognises that it has a responsibility to meet the needs of all learners in the Trust and as such believes in early identification, clear assessment processes and appropriate provision for all learners.

## **3. Legal Framework**

CST ensures inclusion practices relating to special educational needs are met according to the new legislation outlined in the Children and Families Bill (2014), the new SEN and Disability Code of Practice 0 - 25 and The Equalities Act, 2010.

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## **4. Definitions**

CST accepts the definition below of SEND, taken from the SEND code of practice 0 – 25 September 2014

A child or young person has Special Educational Needs (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 a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or

has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her 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

For children aged two or more, 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 in mainstream schools, maintained nursery schools and mainstream post 16 institutions or by relevant early years providers.

Pupils' needs will fall into at least one of these four broad areas. Communication and interaction, Cognition and learning, Social Emotional and mental health difficulties, Sensory and/or physical needs. Many students will have inter-related and complex needs.

Pupils must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught.

## **5. Disability**

CST aims to be Disability Discriminations Act (DDA) compliant.

The 2010 Equalities Act defines a disability as a physical or mental impairment which has a long term and substantially adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

This definition includes:

- Sensory impairments affecting sight or hearing
- Long term health conditions (eg asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer)

Pupils with these conditions may not have special educational needs (SEN) but there is an overlap between disabled pupils and those with SEN.

Pupils with sensory impairment should be supported by appropriate technology and differentiated classroom provision and support, following the advice of the Sensory Support Service.

## **Physical Access for the disabled**

With the exception of that part of Bristol Cathedral Choir School which is housed in historic buildings, where possible CST will ensure the provision of ramps and lifts to facilitate access for physically disabled pupils.

## **6. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Trust Board**

The Trust board will ensure that:

- Each academy/free school has a clear framework for identifying and supporting the special education needs of learners
- there are procedures for identifying and providing for learners' special educational needs;
- they have regard for the requirements of the SEND Code of Practice 0 -25
- they are fully informed about SEND issues, so that they can play a major part in any academy/free school self-review process
- they set up appropriate staffing and funding arrangements
- they are involved in the development and monitoring of this policy
- there is a nominated Governor with responsibility for special educational needs
- SEND provision is an integral part of each academy/free school development plan
- The quality of SEND provision is regularly monitored

### **The Head Teacher**

The head teacher must ensure that:

- the policies and procedure adopted by CST are fully implemented
- learners with special educational needs join in all activities alongside other pupils, as far as is reasonable practical and compatible with their needs and the efficient education of other pupils
- parents are notified if the academy/free school decides to make special educational provision for their child
- sufficient resources are allocated to the management of all aspects of the inclusion agenda, including provision for pupils with SEND
- the Governing Body is informed about SEND issues
- the implementation of this policy is monitored and reported to Governors

### **Designated Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)**

- overseeing the day-to-day operation of this policy
- co-ordinating the provision for individual needs of pupils
- ensuring that an agreed, consistent approach is adopted

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- liaising with external agencies and teachers to identify and support pupils with additional educational needs
- arranging detailed assessments, observations and support of learners with special educational needs
- overseeing the work of staff with responsibility for supporting pupils in/out of class, in devising strategies, drawing up student profiles, setting targets appropriate to individual needs of the learners, and advising on appropriate resources and materials for use with learners and on their effective use of materials
- liaising closely with parents of learners with special educational needs so that they are aware of the strategies that are being used and are involved as partners in the process;
- liaising with outside agencies, arranging meetings, and providing a link between these agencies, class teachers and parents;
- maintaining the academy/free school special educational needs register and records
- assisting in the monitoring and evaluation of progress of learners with SEND
- contributing to the in-service training of staff in working with learners with specific needs
- ensuring that all staff are given any necessary information in relation to behaviour management and other issues for particular learners
- liaise with the SENCos in feeder schools to ensure smooth transition
- be responsible for the administrative processes surrounding pupils with SEND;

## **Teachers**

All teachers in CST are teachers of learners with special educational needs and as such every academy/free school adopts a whole school approach involving all staff adhering to a model of good practice. Teachers must ensure that they:

- are fully aware of this policy and the procedures for identifying, assessing and making provision for learners with SEND;
- are aware of the individual needs, including any SEN, of all learners they teach
- include all learners in lessons, providing an appropriately differentiated curriculum
- draw on the SENCo for advice on assessment and strategies to support inclusion
- give appropriate feedback to enable progress to be monitored and effective reviews to take place

## **Learning Support Assistants (LSA)**

LSAs will work with small groups or individual pupils and must ensure that they:

- make themselves aware of CST's policy for special educational needs and procedures for identification, monitoring and supporting learners with specific needs

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- are fully conversant with the individual needs of all of their mentees
- contribute as required to any review process
- raise any concerns with their line manager as they arise

## **7. Admission and Inclusion**

Inclusion is regarded as crucial to this policy. CST operates an equal opportunities policy for children with special educational needs who are afforded the same rights as other children. This includes both those children with an Education Care and Health Plan (ECHP), statements of special educational needs and those others with less significant problems.

CST will ensure that pupils with SEND are admitted on an equal basis with others in accordance with each academy/free school admissions policy. Where a local authority proposes to name an academy/free school in a Statement of SEND or Education, Health & Care Plan made in accordance with section 324 of the Education Act 1996, it must give the academy/free school written notice that it so proposes. Within 15 days of receipt of the LA's notice that it proposes to name the academy/free school in a statement/EHCP, the academy/free school must consent to being named, except where admitting the learners would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education for other learners; and where no reasonable steps may be made to secure compatibility. Pupils with an EHCP/Statement of SEN, where the academy/free school is named on the Statement, will be offered a place prior to the allocation of places for other pupils.

In deciding whether a learner's inclusion would be incompatible with the efficient education of other children, the academy/free school must have regard to the relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State to maintained schools.

If the academy/free school determines that admitting the child would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education, it must, within 15 days of receipt of the LA's notice, notify the LA in writing that it does not agree that the academy/free school should be named in the learner's statement. Such notice must set out all the facts and matters the academy/free school relies upon in support of its contention that: (a) admitting the learner would be incompatible with efficiently educating other learners; and (b) the academy/free school cannot take reasonable steps to secure this compatibility.

Where a student with a EHCP/Statement is admitted and the placement breaks down, the academy/free school should hold an emergency annual review of the statement and invite the SEN officer from Bristol/South Gloucestershire/North Somerset/BANES. The academy/free school should do all it can working in partnership with the relevant LA to secure an alternative placement, if this is the outcome of the annual review.

Parents of prospective pupils with SEN should be invited to explore the Local Offer and consult the academy/free school's SENCO, prior to their application for a place at the academy/free school, to discuss the SEN provision available within the academy/free school's existing resources.

## **8. Allocation of Resources**

CST will ensure:

The Education, Health and Care Plan/Statement funding allocated to named pupils with SEN provides support to meet the objectives outlined in their Education Health and Care Plans/Statements.

The SENCO will apply for Top-Up funding as appropriate.

Provision mapping is used to indicate how the money brought into the academy/free school due to additional funding is spent.

There is an allocation in the academy/free school budget to cover SEN resources for all pupils on their SEN register.

## **9. Curriculum Access**

Each academy/free school curriculum will be made available for all pupils. Other than exceptional cases, they will make full use of classroom and academy/free school resources before drawing on external support. The curriculum will be differentiated to meet the needs of individual pupils. Teaching styles and flexible groups will reflect this approach including the use of individual, small group or whole class contexts.

The provision for pupils with special educational needs will match the nature of their individual needs; teachers, tutors and the SENCO will keep regular records of the learners' special educational needs, the action taken and the outcomes.

Schemes of work will reflect whole school approaches to teaching and learning and will take account of special educational needs. Curriculum tasks and activities may be broken down into a series of small and achievable steps for learners who have marked learning difficulties. All supervisory staff involved in student support during break, lunchtime and enrichment will be made fully aware of the individual needs of learners and trained appropriately.

## **10. Intervention – Graduated Response**

1. Pupils will usually be supported, according to their individual needs, by the teacher within the classroom setting. Pupils may receive the additional support of a learning support assistant (LSA) in the classroom setting or through limited withdrawal for targeted individual or small group work on a specified task under the direction of the teacher.
2. If a pupil is experiencing difficulties, it is initially the responsibility of the teacher to make necessary changes to the organisation of the classroom; teaching materials; teaching style; differentiated learning materials.

3. If this intervention does not lead to acceptable progress being made, the pupil is referred to the SENCo who, in consultation with the pupil, parents, teachers and other relevant staff, decides what type of intervention and support are appropriate.
4. The SENCO will access the support of external agencies for individual pupils where appropriate.

## **11. Examinations**

The SENCO will work with the appropriate member of staff to ensure that suitable access arrangements for examinations are put in place for pupils with SEN.

## **12. Monitoring and Evaluating Learner Progress**

All pupils who are not achieving age related expectations and needing some form of special provision outside the normal classroom range of differentiation should be recorded on the academy/free school SEN register.

- Pupils are grouped in 3 categories, S (EHCP/Statemented pupils) K (School Support pupils) M (Monitoring pupils).
- EHCP/Statemented pupils should have an annual review as required by legislation which will involve pupils, parents and appropriate representation from the academy/free school and other agencies. In line with the new Code of practice parents will be invited into the academy/free school on a further two occasions during the school year to discuss progress.
- School Support pupils should have at least one review during the academic year which will include the SENCO or another appropriate member of the academy/free school.
- If the pupil identified as School Support (K) responds well to a graduated response provision and achieves age related expectations they will be removed from the register and monitored separately.

## **13. Partnership Liaison and Other Support Services**

- Partnership with parents plays an essential role in enabling pupils with SEN to make acceptable progress and become successful learners. CST recognises that parents hold key information, knowledge and experience about their child. Each academy/free school values the partnership with all parents and is keen to support them in playing an active and valued role in their children's education.

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- As far as practically possible the SENCO will liaise with primary schools and feeder schools to ensure transition is as smooth as possible for pupils with SEN.
- When parents of a pupil with a Statement of SEN have expressed an interest in applying for a place at an academy/free school, the SENCO or Assistant SENCO will where possible attend annual review meetings at the pupil's primary school.
- The following outside agencies are available, (this list is not exhaustive) SEN Services, Inclusion Team, Educational Psychology Service, Sensory Support Service, Bristol Autism Team, Social Care, Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Education Welfare Service and Learning Partnership West.
- The academy/free school SENCO where possible should attend SENCO cluster meetings and secondary SENCO meetings.

## **14. Staff Training and Development**

- The SENCO and members of the SEN team provide advice and ongoing training for colleagues on all aspects of effective teaching for pupils with SEN.
- The SENCO contributes to relevant sessions for the whole staff on Training Days.
- LSAs are given appropriate training to ensure they have the necessary skills and expertise to fulfil their roles effectively.
- NQTs, GTPs and all new teaching staff are informed of SEN policy and practice as part of the induction programme.
- Teaching staff and LSAs are able to attend appropriate external courses to increase their knowledge of and expertise in specific areas of SEN. Information is shared and evaluated through informal arrangements and at staff training days.

## **15. Pupil Participation**

Pupils will be encouraged to participate fully in decisions made regarding their education. Where possible/appropriate pupils, regardless of their particular circumstance, will be invited to meetings where their needs, potential provision and any arrangements are being discussed.

## **16. Managing Complaints**

- Where a parent or pupil has a concern about the SEN provision that is being made, this should first be addressed to the SENCO. Every effort will be made to ensure a response is received within 5 working days.

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- If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved, the Trust complaints procedure should be followed.