



THE HARMONY TRUST

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SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) POLICY

Believe. Achieve. Succeed.

Review: H Hadfield Oct 2018

Approved:

Signed:

Signed: Tom Stockwell Principal

Next Review: Oct 2019

Review Date	By whom	Summary of changes made	Date of Approval
October 2018	H Hadfield		



Special Education Needs and Disability Policy

Cottons Farm Academy values the abilities and achievements of all its pupils, and is committed to providing each pupil with the best possible environment for learning.

We want all children to Enjoy, Achieve and Succeed!

THE SEND AIMS OF THE ACADEMY

- To ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- To provide a differentiated curriculum appropriate to the individual's needs and ability.
- To ensure the identification of all pupils requiring SEN provision as early as possible in their Academy career
- To ensure that SEN pupils take as full a part as possible in all Academy activities
- To ensure that parents of SEN pupils are kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment
- To create an environment where pupils can contribute to their own learning, where they feel safe and listened to.

DEFINITION OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Definitions of special educational needs taken from section 20 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

A child has special educational needs if he or she has learning difficulties that call for special educational provision to be made.

A child has learning difficulties if he or she:

- Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age
- Has a disability which prevents or hinders the child from making use of educational facilities of a kind provided for children of the same age in other Academy's within the Local Authority

Special education provision means:

- Educational provision which is additional to, or different from, the educational provision made generally for children of the same age in maintained schools, (other than special schools) in the area

Children must not be regarded as having learning difficulties solely because their language, or form of the home language, is different from that in which they are taught.



Cottons Farm will have due regard for the Special Needs Code of Practice 2014 when carrying out our duties towards all pupils with special educational needs, and ensure that parents are notified when SEN provision is being made for their child.

Special educational needs could mean that a child has difficulties in:

- Communication and Interaction - in expressing themselves or understanding what others are saying
- Cognition and Learning - in acquiring basic skills in Academy
- Social and Emotional Mental Health - making friends or relating to adults or behaving properly in Academy
- Sensory and/or Physical - such as hearing or visual impairment, which might affect them in Academy or medical or health condition which may slow down a child's progress and/or involves treatment that affects his or her education.

Children make progress at different rates and have different ways they learn best. Teachers take account of this when they plan teaching and learning activities. Children making slower progress or having particular difficulties in one area may be given extra help/support or different lessons to help them succeed.

ADMISSIONS

The admission arrangements for ALL pupils are in accordance with national legislation, including the Equality Act 2010. This includes children with any level of SEN; those with Education, Health and Care Plans and those without. In common with other Academy's, the Local Authority (Derby City Council) administers admissions into the Academy.

INCLUSION

This policy builds on our Academy Inclusion Policy, which recognises the entitlement of all pupils to a balanced, broadly based curriculum. Our SEND policy reinforces the need for teaching that is fully inclusive. The Governing Body will ensure that appropriate provision will be made for all pupils with SEND.

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

The Governing Body ensures that resources are allocated to support appropriate provision for all pupils, within budget constraints.

IDENTIFICATION

At Cottons Farm Academy we have adopted a whole- Academy approach to SEND policy and practice. All staff are committed to the principles and aims of this policy. Pupils identified as having SEND are, as far as is practicable, fully integrated into mainstream classes. Every effort is made to ensure that they have full access to the National Curriculum and Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and are integrated into all aspects of the Academy.



All teachers are responsible for identifying pupils with SEND and, in collaboration with the SENCO, will ensure that those pupils requiring different or additional support are identified at an early stage. Assessment is the process by which pupils with SEND can be identified. Whether or not a pupil is making progress is seen as a significant factor in considering the need for SEND provision.

Early Identification

Early identification of pupils with SEND is a priority. The Academy will use appropriate screening and assessment tools, and ascertain pupil progress through:

- Evidence obtained by teacher observation/ assessment.
- Foundation Stage profile scores and their progress against the criteria contained in the 'Ages and Stages' documentation
- Their performance in National Curriculum subjects judged against assessment requirements.
- Pupil progress in relation to the National Curriculum objectives in English and Maths

Assessments

Assessments made will be through:

- Observations
- Records from feeder schools, etc.
- Information from parents
- Foundation stage assessments
- Foundation stage profiles
- Target setting
- Pupil tracking

CODE OF PRACTICE GRADUATED RESPONSE

The Academy adopts the levels of intervention as described in the SEN Code of Practice.

The Code of Practice advocates a graduated response to meeting pupils' needs.

SEND MONITOR

- Any pupils who are falling outside of the range of expected academic progress will be monitored and assessments will be made as described above to determine if further intervention is required.
- The class teacher will take steps to further differentiate the learning to better support the pupil and this may require an adjustment in the style of teaching adopted with that pupil.
- The SENCO should be informed and consulted to provide support and advice and may wish to observe the pupil.
- Parents will be fully informed so they can share information and knowledge with the Academy to help better understand the needs of the child.
- The child is recorded as being monitored; this does not mean they will automatically be placed on the SEN register.



SEND SUPPORT

Where it is determined that a pupil does have SEND, parents will be formally advised of this and the decision to add the pupil to the SEND register is made. The aim of formally identifying a pupil with SEND is to help Academy ensure that effective provision is put in place and so remove any barriers to learning. The support provided consists of a four-part process.

- Assess
- Plan
- Do
- Review

This is an ongoing cycle to enable the provision to be refined and revised as the understanding of the needs of the pupil grows. This cycle enables identification of those interventions which are most effective in supporting the pupil to achieve good levels of progress and outcomes.

Assess

This involves clearly analysing the pupil's need using the class teachers' assessment and experience of working with the pupil, details of previous progress and attainment, comparisons with peers and national data, as well as the views and experience of the parents. Advice from external support services and staff will be sought if appropriate and with the agreement of the parents.

Plan

Planning will involve consultation between the teacher, SENCO and parents to agree the adjustments, interventions and support that are required; the impact on progress, development and/ or behaviour that is expected and a clear date for review. Parental involvement may be sought, where appropriate, to reinforce or contribute to progress at home. This plan will be recorded in the form of a Target Planning and Reviewing document which will be shared with staff, parents and the pupil.

Do

The class teacher remains responsible for working with the child on a day to day basis. They will retain responsibility even where the interventions may involve group or one to one teaching away from the main class teacher. They will work closely with teaching assistants to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and ensure links with classroom teaching. The SENCO will support with further assessment of the pupil's strengths and weaknesses.

Review

Reviews of a child's progress will be made regularly. The review process will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. It will also take account the views of the pupil and their parents. The class teacher, in conjunction with the SENCO, will revise the support outcomes and based upon the pupil's progress and development make any necessary amendments going forward, in consultation with parents and pupils.



REFERRAL FOR AN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN

If a child has lifelong or significant difficulties they may undergo an Education, Health, Care Needs Assessment which may be requested by the Academy, parent, health or social care. This will occur where the complexity of need or lack of clarity around the need of the child are such that a multi-agency approach to assessing that need, to planning the provision and identifying resources is required.

The decision to make a referral for an Education, Health and Care plan will be taken at a progress review.

The application for an Education, Health and Care Plan will combine information from a variety of sources including:

- Parents
- Teachers
- SENCO
- Social Care
- Health Professionals

Information will be gathered relating to the current provision provided, action that has been taken, and the preliminary outcomes of targets set. A decision will be made by a group of people co-ordinated by Derby City Council (including professionals from education, health and social care) about whether or not the child is eligible for an EHC Plan. Parents have the right to appeal against a decision made by the Education, Health, Care panel.

Further information about EHC Plans can be found via the Derby City Website

<http://www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/special-educational-needsassessment/>

Education, Health and Care Plans

- a) Following statutory assessment, an EHC Plan may be provided by Derby City Council, if it is decided the child's needs are not being met by the support that is ordinarily available. The Academy and the child's parents will be involved developing and producing the plan. Parents have the right to appeal against a decision not to issue an ECH Plan.
- b) Parents have the right to appeal against the content of the EHC Plan. They may also appeal against the Academy named in the plan if it differs from their preferred choice.
- c) Once the EHC Plan has been completed and agreed, it will be kept as part of the pupil's formal record and reviewed at least annually by staff, parents, professionals external to the Academy, representatives from the Local Authority and the pupil. The annual review enables provision for the pupil to be evaluated and, where appropriate, for changes to be put in place, for example, reducing or increasing the levels of support.



SEND provision

On entry to the Academy each child's attainment will be assessed. This will help to inform the Academy of a child's aptitudes, abilities, and attainments. The records provided help the Academy to design appropriate differentiated learning programmes.

For pupils with identified SEND the SENCO/Class teacher will use the records to:

- Provide starting points for an appropriate curriculum
- Identify the need for support within the class
- Assess learning difficulties
- Ensure on-going observations/assessments provide regular feedback on achievements/ experiences, for planning next steps in learning
- Involve parents in a joint home-Academy learning approach

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

For those pupils whose first language is not English, teachers will closely follow their progress across the curriculum to ascertain whether any problems arise from uncertain command of English or from special educational needs. It will be necessary to assess their proficiency in English before planning any additional support that might be required.

STAFFING

The SEND team for the Academy is:

SEND Co-ordinator – Hayley Hadfield

Inclusion Manger – Karen Gaskill

SEND INSET

All staff are encouraged to attend courses that help them to acquire the skills needed to work with SEND pupils. The Academy's INSET needs will be included in the annual School Improvement Plan.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Cottons Farm Academy firmly believes in developing a strong partnership with parents and that this will enable children and young people with SEND to achieve their potential. The Academy recognises that parents have a unique overview of the child's needs, and that this gives them a key role in the partnership.

The Academy aims to work in partnership with parents and carers.

We do so by:

- keeping parents and carers informed and giving support during assessment and any related decision-making process about SEND provision
- working effectively with all other agencies supporting children and their parents



- giving parents and carers opportunities to play an active and valued role in their child's education
- making parents and carers feel welcome
- ensuring all parents and carers have appropriate communication aids and access arrangements
- providing all information in an accessible way
- encouraging parents and carers to inform Academy of any difficulties they perceive their child may be having or other needs the child may have which need addressing
- instilling confidence that the Academy will listen and act appropriately
- focusing on the child's strengths as well as areas of additional need
- allowing parents and carers opportunities to discuss ways in which they and the Academy can help their child
- agreeing targets for the child
- making parents and carers aware of the Parent Partnership services.

EVALUATING THE SUCCESS OF OUR SEN POLICY

The SEN Governor will meet at least annually with the SENCO(s) and the governor will report annually on the success of the policy against the specific objectives which are given under 'The SEND Aims of the Academy' at the beginning of this policy. The Academy adopts the Revise, Revisit, Refine and Refresh approach to ensure that the Academy is successfully meeting the needs of SEND pupils and parents as well as suitable training and supporting staff.

Pupil progress will provide evidence for the success of the SEND policy and this will be analysed carefully through:

- Consideration of each pupil's success in meeting targets when reviewed.
- Use of standardised tests – SATs, Foundation profile scores
- Academy tracking systems

In addition the Academy will publish an annual SEND Information report which can be viewed on the Academy's website which details the key SEND information for the year.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The Academy's complaints procedure is outlined in the Academy prospectus and can be reviewed in full on the Academy's website www.cottonsfarm.theharmonytrust.org. The SEND Code of Practice outlines additional measures which the Local Authority must have in place to prevent and resolve disagreements. These will be explained to parents if required.

LINKS WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES/ ORGANISATIONS

The Academy recognises the important contribution that external support services make in assisting to identify, assess, and provide for SEN pupils. Derby City Councils Local Offer webpage is a good source of support and information about services locally that can be very helpful to families it will signpost you to other useful agencies and services. www.derby.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer



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When it is considered necessary, colleagues from the following support services will be involved with SEND pupils:

- Educational psychologists
- Medical officers
- Speech and Language therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Occupational therapists
- Hearing impairment services
- Visual impairment services
- Physical impairment services
- School Nurse

In addition, links are in place with the following organisations:

- The Local Authority
- Education Welfare Officer
- Social Services
- SENCOs in other Derby Schools

SEND POLICY REVIEW

The Academy considers the SEND Policy document to be important and, in conjunction with the Governing Body, undertakes a thorough review of both policy and practice as identified in the School Improvement Plan.