



HOMEWOOD SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM CENTRE
Learning • Respect • Belonging

SEND POLICY

Date approved by Governors
May 2021

HOMEWOOD SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

SEND Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually

DATE OF POLICY: NOVEMBER 2020

DATE OF REVIEW: NOVEMBER 2021

Member of staff responsible for Policy:

- **Principal & Director of Learning Support**

Signed



Principal

Signed



Chair of Governors

Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre

SEND Information Report

This policy is written in line with the requirements of: -

Children and Families Act 2014

SEN (Special Educational Needs) Code of Practice 2015

SI 2014 1530 Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014

Part 3 Duties on Schools – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators

Schedule 1 regulation 51– Information to be included in the SEN information report

Schedule 2 regulation 53 – Information to be published by a local authority in its local offer

Equality Act 2010

Schools Admissions Code, DfE (Department for Education) 1 Feb 2012

SI 2012 1124 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012

SI 2013 758 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school:

- Equality policy
- Ethos for Learning Policy
- Quality of Learning Policy
- Gifted and Talented Policy
- Admissions Policy

Information about SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) provision and teaching strategies is also to be found in:

- Student Development Centre procedures and practice
- LIFE (Learning is for Ever) Centre Operational procedures
- The School Development Plan

This SEND Policy has also been written with reference to Department for Education best practice publications.

We have also taken account of advice from the LEA (Local Educational Authority) and local policy initiatives on the local offer from the Ashford Local Inclusion Forum Team (LIFT).

This policy document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies to ensure the rapid identification of and effective and efficient provision for students with SEND at Homewood. It provides a framework for the identification of and provision for these students. It is written for the benefit of all members of the school community to ensure that the potential of every student is maximised, irrespective of ability, disability, race, gender and social origin and to enable equality of access to the curriculum in an environment where every student is valued. It will be reviewed annually.

Definition of SEN

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 if he or she:

- (a) Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- (b) Has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions. *SEN Code of Practice (2015, p15)*

Definition of disability

Many children and young people who have SEN may also have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 – that is ‘...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’. This definition provides a relatively low threshold and includes more children than many realise: ‘long-term’ is defined as ‘a year or more’ and ‘substantial’ is defined as ‘more than minor or trivial’ *SEN Code of Practice (2015, p16)*

1 The kinds of special educational need for which provision is made at the school

At Homewood School we can make provision for every kind of frequently occurring special educational need without a Statement of Special Educational Need/Education, Health and Care Plan, for instance Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Speech and Language needs, Autism, Asperger’s Syndrome, learning difficulties and behaviour difficulties. There are other kinds of Special Educational Need which do not occur as frequently and with which the school is less familiar, but we can access training and advice so that these kinds of needs can be met.

The school also currently meets the needs of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan with the following kinds of Special Educational Need:

- Speech, language and communication needs.
- Autistic Spectrum Condition
- Dyslexia and Dyscalculia
- Dyspraxia
- Behaviour, emotional and social difficulty
- Multi-Sensory Impairment
- Physical Disability
- Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty
- ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)
- ODD (Oppositional Defiance Disorder)
- Visual impairment

Decisions on the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan are made by the Local Authority.

The admission arrangements for pupils without an Education, Health and Care Plan do not discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with special educational needs.

2 Information about the policy for identification and assessment of pupils with SEN

At Homewood School we monitor the progress of all pupils 5 times a year to review their academic progress. We also use a range of assessments with all the pupils at various points

- Year 6 CATS (Cognitive Assessment Tests) testing in November.
- Year 7 Maths baseline assessments.
- Year 10 Exam Access Arrangements screening.
- A SEN referral form for staff who are concerned about student need focusing on Kent LEA Mains Core Standards.
- Speech and language assessments take place for any student that has been referred to a Speech and Language therapists.
- Literacy screening assessments.
- GLS Lucid Rapid, GLS Dyscalculia, Lucid LASS, GLS VISS
- Language Link screening programmes.

Where progress is not sufficient, even if special educational need has not been identified, we put in place extra support to enable the pupil to catch up. Examples of extra support are:

- 1:1 support

- Small group intervention sessions
- Individual study support mentoring sessions
- Literacy and numeracy support
- Lunchtime and after school catch-up sessions

Some pupils may continue to make inadequate progress, despite high-quality teaching targeted at their areas of need or weakness. For these pupils, and in consultation with parents, we will use a range of assessment tools to determine the cause of the learning difficulty. We are experienced in using the following assessment tools:

- WRAT5 (the wide-ranging abilities test)
- CTOPP 2 (comprehensive test of phonological processing)
- DASH (detailed assessment of speed of hand writing)
- NARA 1 and 2 (reading, comprehension and rate)
- YARC (reading for comprehension)
- GLS SEND Assessment Toolkit including Lucid LASS and Exact screening programmes
- GLS RAPID and Dyscalculia
- Personalised Learning for Reading Assessment package
- Language Link assessment
- Boxall and Lervén Scale profiles
- Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires
- PASS
- Ideal Self
- Student Voice tools

We also have access to Integrated Therapy (Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy) specialists and Specialist Teaching and Learning Service who come into school to work with students where necessary.

The purpose of this more detailed assessment is to understand what additional resources and different approaches are required to enable the pupil to make better progress. These will be shared with parents, put into a SEN support plan and reviewed regularly, and refined / revised if necessary. At this point we will have identified that the pupil has a Special Educational Need because the school is making special educational provision for the pupil which is additional and different to what is normally available.

If the pupil is able to make good progress using this additional and different resource (but would not be able to maintain this good progress without it) we will continue to identify the pupil as having a special educational need. If the pupil is able to maintain good progress without the additional and different resources he or she will not be identified with Special Educational Needs. When any change in identification of SEN is changed parents will be notified.

We will ensure that all teachers and support staff who work with the pupil are aware of the support to be provided and the teaching approaches to be used.

3 Information about the school's policies for making provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs whether or not they have EHC (Educational and Health Care) Plans, including

3a How the school evaluates the effectiveness of its provision for such pupils

Each review of the SEN support plan will be informed by the views of the pupil, parents and class/subject teachers and the assessment information from teachers which will show whether adequate progress is being made.

The *SEN Code of Practice (2015, 6.17)* describes inadequate progress thus:

- 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 rate of progress
- Widens the attainment gap

For pupils with or without an Education, Health and Care Plan there will be an annual review of the provision made for the child, which will enable an evaluation of the effectiveness of the special provision. The collation of all annual review evaluations of effectiveness will be reported to the Governing Body.

3b The school's arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of pupils with Special Educational Needs

Every pupil in the school has their progress tracked five times per year. In addition to this, pupils with Special Educational Needs may have more frequent assessments of reading age, spelling age etc. The assessments we use at Homewood School are listed in Section 2. Using these it will be possible to see if pupils are increasing their level of skills in key areas.

If these assessments do not show adequate progress is being made the SEN support plan will be reviewed and adjusted.

3c The school's approach to teaching pupils with Special Educational Needs

High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching. Schools should regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEN most frequently encountered *SEN Code of Practice (2015, 6.37)*

We follow the Mainstream Core Standards (<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/the-mainstream-core-standards>) advice developed by Kent County Council to ensure that our teaching conforms to best practice.

In meeting the Mainstream Core Standards, the school employs some additional teaching approaches, as advised by internal and external assessments e.g. one to one tutoring / mentoring, small group teaching, use of ICT software learning packages. These are delivered by additional staff employed through the funding provided to the school as 'notional SEN funding'

3d How the school adapts the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with Special Educational Needs

At Homewood School we follow the advice in the Mainstream Core Standards on how to adapt the curriculum and the learning environment for pupils with Special Educational Needs. We also incorporate the advice provided as a result of assessments, both internal and external, and the strategies described in Education, Health and Care Plans.

As part of our requirement to keep the appropriateness of our curriculum and learning environment under review the Governors have recently made the following improvements as part of the school's accessibility planning:

Buildings

- Any new building takes into account the needs of abled and non-abled students

Curriculum

- ASDAN is offered to a select number of students in Key Stages 4 and 5
- Vocational courses are available in Key Stages 4 and 5.

- Subjects can be offered to students at an appropriate level. This is constantly reviewed.
- In Key Stage 3 our Key Skills provision allows for differentiated and personalised learning experiences for those with higher levels of need.
- Our Skills for Working Life course for select students at Key Stage 5

Training of staff

- All staff receive SEN advice and guidance. Specific training is provided to all staff (this includes sessions from specialists as well as designated training time every Wednesday).

3e Additional support for learning that is available to pupils with Special Educational Needs

As part of our budget we receive 'notional SEN funding'. This funding is used to ensure that the quality of teaching is good in the school and that there are sufficient resources to deploy additional and different teaching for pupils requiring SEN support. The amount of support required for each pupil to make good progress will be different in each case. A full list of the interventions we can offer is listed on our Whole School Provision Map. Support Offered includes:

- Key Skills groups in Year 7, 8, 9 and Key Skills groups for Year 10 and 11 in core subjects
- Supported mainstream groups at Key Stage 3 and 4
- ASDAN groups in Key Stages 4 and 5
- Skills for Working Life group at Key Stage 5
- Maths interventions
- English interventions
- Bespoke literacy intervention sessions
- Dyslexia and Dyscalculia specialist support
- English as an Additional Language support
- Social Communication and Skills Groups
- Speech and Language therapists
- SEN Homework Club (KS3, 4 and 5)
- Provision at break and lunch times for vulnerable students
- Support for students with co-ordination and physical areas of need such as fine and gross motor skills programmes
- Therapeutic intervention sessions such as Drawing and Talking Therapy
- Hand writing and touch-typing support
- Individual mentoring and supported study sessions
- Speech and language support sessions
- Lego Therapy
- IDL literacy and numeracy development programme

In very few cases a very high level of resource is required. The funding arrangements require schools to provide up to £6000 per year of resource for pupils with high needs, and above that amount the Local Authority should provide top up to the school through their High Needs Funding (HNF) system.

3f How the school enables pupils with special educational needs to engage in activities of the school (including physical activities) together with children who do not have special educational needs

All clubs, trips and activities offered to pupils at Homewood School are available to pupils with Special Educational Needs either with or without an Education Health and Care Plan. Where it is necessary, the school will use the resources available to it to provide additional adult support to enable the safe participation of the pupil in the activity

3g support that is available for improving the emotional and social development of pupils with Special Educational Needs

At Homewood School we understand that an important feature of the school is to enable all pupils to develop emotional resilience and social skills, both through direct teaching for instance e.g. mentoring time and focus days and indirectly with every conversation adults have with pupils throughout the day.

For some pupils with the most need for help in this area we also can provide the following

- Family Liaison Officer support
- In house counsellor
- Mentor time with Form Tutors
- Mentoring from Youth Workers
- ‘My Zone’ – students attend by invitation only a supervised lunchtime club
- External referral to ChYPS (Child and Young person services)
- Work with the ‘Early Intervention’ Staff
- Time-Out cards for students to use when upset or agitated
- Take up the Challenge – self-esteem and confidence building group running for 6 weeks
- Peace by Piece bereavement group
- One to one or small group therapeutic sessions with Learning Support Staff
- Work with our Early Help Coordinator

Pupils in the early stages of emotional and social development because of their Special Educational Needs will be supported to enable them to develop and mature appropriately. This will usually require additional and different resources, beyond that required by pupils who do not need this support.

4 The name and contact details of the SEN Co-ordinator

The SENCO at Homewood School is Lucy Stephen, who is a qualified teacher and has been accredited by the National Award for SEN Co-ordination and also holds a BA (Hons) and MA (Ed) with QTS.

Lucy Stephen is available on 01580 764222 ex290 or l.stephen@homewood.kent.sch.uk

5 Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and how specialist expertise will be secured

The following staff have received the following enhanced and specialist training:

Member of staff	Qualification gained
T Betteridge	BA (Hons) Open University Certificate of Education University of London Advanced Certificate in Classroom Management
J Cogger	Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties Level 2 SENECA Certified Assessor Level 1
K Chalk	BSc (Hons) Psychology
S Crawford	B.Ed. (Hons) Mathematics and Information Technology & Qualified Teacher Status MA Ed
D Bridger	Level 3 Certificate on support work in schools Adult Numeracy L2 CACHE Level 2 NVQ in Children’s Care and Development Certificate of Competence in Educational testing plus Access Arrangements (CPT3A) Level 7 qualification
S Earll	BA Hons Childhood Studies with SEN Specialism PGCE
A Fox	NVQ 3 City and Guilds – Supporting Teaching and Learning OCR Level 5 – Diploma in Teaching Learners with SPLD

	COPE Level 2 ASDAN Instructor qualification Understanding Children and Young People's Mental Health Level 2
A Harris	Understanding Autism Level 2 Youth Mental Health First Aider
S. Hawkins	Childcare Btec Level 4
S Hunt	Diploma of Higher Education in Childhood and youth Studies Childcare and Education Level 2 CELTA Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Understanding Autism Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Behaviour that Challenges Level 2
I Gray	Level 3 NVQ for Teaching Assistants Youth Mental Health First Aider
R Gerbozy	Understanding Children and Adolescent Mental Health Level 2
E Mason	Children and Young People's Mental Health Level 2
R Layzell	Level 4 Award in Higher Level Teaching Assistant (Higher Distinction)
R Padilla	Diploma in Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning in Schools Level 3
P Russell	Dyslexia Awareness Level 2 Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties Level 2 Certificate in Child and Adolescent Counselling Level 2 Youth Mental Health First Aider Phonics International Systematic Synthetic Phonics
S Ruthven	Level 2 Supporting Teaching and Learning
L Stephen	BA Hons (Sussex) MEd with QTS (Durham - Distinction) PGCPP SEN (Chichester) – National SENCO Award Specialist Leader of Education (SEND) Designation

Where a training need is identified beyond this we will find a provider who is able to deliver it. Training providers we can approach are Goldwyn and Wyvern Special Schools, Educational Psychology Service, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Specialist Teachers for Sensory Impairment and all areas of SEND Need. The cost of training is covered by the notional SEN funding.

In recent years Learning Support staff have taken part in a wide variety of training courses including courses focusing on Zones of Regulation; Dyslexia; Dyscalculia: ASC and Asperger's; ADHD; Developmental Coordination Difficulties; Adolescent Mental Health; Hearing Impairment, Visual Impairment; Anxiety; Managing Challenging Behaviour and Safe and Successful Return to School (Post Covid 19).

6 Information about how equipment and facilities to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs will be secured

Where external advisors recommend the use of equipment or facilities which the school does not have, we will purchase it using the notional SEN funding, or seek it by loan. For highly specialist communication equipment the school will seek the advice of the KCC Communication and Assistive Technology team.

7 The arrangements for consulting parents of children with Special Educational Needs about, and involving them in, their education

All parents of pupils at Homewood School are invited to discuss the progress of their children on two occasions a year and receive a written report once per year. In addition, we are happy to

arrange meetings outside these times. As part of our normal teaching arrangements, all pupils will access some additional teaching to help them catch-up if the progress monitoring indicates that this is necessary; this will not imply that the pupil has a Special Educational Need. All such provision will be recorded, tracked and evaluated on a Provision Plan.

If following this normal provision improvements in progress are not seen, we will contact parents to discuss the use of internal or external assessments which will help us to address these needs better. From this point onwards, the pupil will be identified as having Special Educational Needs because special educational provision is being made and the parent will be invited to all planning and reviews of this provision. Parents will be actively supported to contribute to assessment, planning and review.

In addition to this, parents of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan will be invited to contribute to and attend an annual review, which, wherever possible will also include other agencies involved with the pupil. Information will be made accessible for parents.

8 The arrangements for consulting young people with Special Educational Needs about, and involving them in, their education

When a pupil has been identified to have Special Educational Needs because special educational provision is being made for him or her, the pupil will be consulted about and involved in the arrangements made for them as part of person-centred planning. Parents are likely to play a more significant role in the childhood years with the young person taking more responsibility and acting with greater independence in later years.

9 The arrangements made by the governing body relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school

The normal arrangements for the treatment of complaints at Homewood School are used for complaints about provision made for special educational needs. We encourage parents to discuss their concerns with the Form Tutor, subject teacher, Principal Teacher, Curriculum Leader or SENCO to resolve the issue before making the complaint formal to the Chair of the governing body.

If the complaint is not resolved after it has been considered by the Governing Body, then a disagreement resolution service or mediation service can be contracted. If it remains unresolved after this, the complainant can appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), if the case refers to disability discrimination, or to the Secretary of State for all other cases.

There are some circumstances, usually for children who have an EHCP where there is a statutory right for parents to appeal against a decision of the Local Authority. Complaints which fall within this category cannot be investigated by the school.

10 How the governing body involves other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and in supporting the families of such pupils

The designated SEN Governor has been fully informed by the SENCO regarding the following bodies: -

- Membership of LIFT for access to specialist teaching and learning service
- Via LIFT, access to the Educational Psychology service as required
- Access to Speech and Language Therapy Services
- Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Services as required for pupil needing direct therapy or advice
- Membership of professional networks for SENCO (SENCO Forums at District and National Level, NASEN and TRA SENCO membership)

11 The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities and children and young people with SEND up to age 25 (Code of Practice 2015, 6.39)

Information Advice and Support Kent (IASK) provides a free and confidential, information, advice and support service, for parents of a disabled child or child with special educational needs and to children and young people up to age 25 who have a special educational need or disability.

Trained staff can provide impartial legally based information and support on educational matters relating to special educational needs and disabilities, including health and social care. The aim is to empower parents, children and young people to fully participate in discussions and make informed choices and decisions. Also, to feel confident to express their views and wishes about education and future aspirations.

They can be contacted on

HELPLINE: 03000 41 3000

Office: 03000 412412

E-mail: iask@kent.gov.uk

www.kent.gov.uk/iask

12 The school's arrangements for supporting pupils with Special educational needs in transferring between phases of education or in preparing for adulthood and independent living

At Homewood School we work closely with the educational settings used by the pupils before they transfer to us in order to seek the information that will make the transfer as seamless as possible. Our SENCO will try and visit most Primary Schools before the students arrive here so that there is a comprehensive understanding of the student need.

We also contribute information to a pupils' onward destination by providing information to the next setting along with developing the skills and experiences needed to cope with the next phase ahead of the transition.

13 Information on where the local authority's local offer is published.

The local authority's local offer is published on <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs> and parents without internet access should make an appointment with the SENCO for support to gain the information they require.

Approved by the GB on

Next review on July 2021