

Inspire Academy SEND Policy	
Status	Statutory
Purpose	To set out the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in the SEND process
Committees	Staff and Pupil Well being
Issue Date	October 2024
Review Date	October 2025

Statement of intent

At Inspire Academy we believe in aspiration for all. This means nurturing, supporting and developing every aspect of every single child in our care. All pupils need to experience praise, recognition and success, and pupils with SEND have equal entitlement to this. We want to create a world where the sky is the limit for all of our pupils; building pathways for all and focusing on personal and academic success and eventually progress to successful employment.

This policy outlines the framework for the school to meet its duty, obligation and principal equality values to provide a high-quality education to all of its pupils, including pupils with SEND, and to do everything it can to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.

Through successful implementation of this policy, the school aims to:

- Eliminate discrimination.
- Promote equal opportunities.
- Foster good relationships between pupils with SEND and pupils without SEND.

The school will work with the LA, or equivalent, within the following principles, which underpin this policy:

- The involvement of pupils and their parents in decision-making
- The identification of pupils' needs
- Collaboration between education, health and social care services to provide support
- High-quality provision to meet the needs of pupils with SEND
- Greater choice and control for pupils and their parents over their support
- Successful preparation for adulthood, including independent living and employment

Identifying SEND

The school has a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND, and recognises that early identification and effective provision improves long-term outcomes for the pupils.

Staff and Senior Leaders conduct regular progress assessments for all pupils, with the aim of identifying pupils who are making less than expected progress.

The law states that a child has a special educational need if he/she has a:

- Significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age
- Disability or health condition which prevents or hinders them 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.

Areas of special educational need:

Inspire Academy School will make provision for pupils with the following areas of need:

Communication and interaction

Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), including Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others.

Cognition and learning

Support for learning difficulties may be required when children learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD) or severe learning difficulties (SLD), where children are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum. Such requirements may also apply to some extent to children with physical and sensory impairments, through to profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), where children are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment. Specific learning difficulties (SpLD) encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

Social, emotional and mental health

Children may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or attachment disorder.

Sensory and/or physical

Some children require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. Many children with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI), or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning. Some children with a physical disability (PD) require additional ongoing support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

Children experiencing difficulties in any one or a combination of these areas may be registered on either the school's Medical Register or SEN list or both.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that reasonable adjustments are made for pupils with disabilities to help alleviate any substantial disadvantage they experience because of their disability.
- Designate an appropriate member of staff (the SENDCO) as having responsibility for co-ordinating provision for pupils with SEN
- Engage parents and/or young people with SEN when drawing up policies that affect them.
- Taking necessary steps to ensure that pupils with disabilities are not discriminated against, harassed or victimised, e.g. in line with the Equal Opportunities Policy: Pupils.
- Regularly monitoring the school's policies and procedures, to review their impact on pupils with SEND, including on their mental health and wellbeing.
- Publish annual information on the school's SEN Policy, setting out the measures and facilities to assist access for pupils with disabilities
- Appoint a designated teacher for 'looked after' children, where appropriate
- Preparing the Accessibility Plan, showing how the school intends to progressively improve access over time.
- Developing complaints procedures which, along with details about appealing to the SEND tribunal, will be made known to parents and pupils.
- Ensuring arrangements are in place to support pupils at school with medical conditions, in line with the school's Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.
- Cooperating with the LA in drawing up and reviewing the Local Offer.
- Appointing an individual governor or sub-committee to oversee the school's arrangements for SEND.
- Ensuring that the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy addresses additional safeguarding challenges that children with SEND may face.



The Principal will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that those who are teaching or working with pupils with SEND are aware of their needs and have arrangements in place to meet them.
- Ensuring that teachers monitor and review pupils' progress during the academic year. • Cooperate with local authorities during annual EHC plan reviews
- Ensuring that the SENDCO has sufficient time and resources to carry out their functions.
- Providing the SENDCO with sufficient administrative support and time away from teaching to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities.
- Regularly and carefully reviewing the quality of teaching for pupils at risk of underachievement, as a core part of the school's performance management arrangements.
- Ensuring that teachers understand the strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils.
- Ensuring teachers have an established understanding of different types of SEND.
- Ensuring that procedures and policies for the day-to-day running of the school do not directly or indirectly discriminate against pupils with SEND.
- Ensuring that pupils with SEND and their parents are actively supported in contributing to needs assessments, and developing and reviewing EHC plans.
- Establishing and maintaining a culture of high expectations and including pupils with SEND in all opportunities available to other pupils.
- Consulting health and social care professionals, pupils, and parents to ensure the needs of pupils with medical conditions are effectively supported.
- Keeping parents and relevant teachers up-to-date with any changes or concerns involving a pupil, considering the school's Pupil Confidentiality Policy.
- Reporting to the governing board on the impact of SEND policies and procedures, including on pupils' mental health and wellbeing.

The SENDCO will be responsible for:

- The day-to-day operation and implementation of the SEND policy
- Collaborating with the governing board and Principal, as part of the SLT, to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school.
- Working with the relevant governors and the Principal to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, regarding reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- Coordinating the specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEND, including those with EHC plans.
- Liaise with the relevant designated teacher where a cared for pupil has SEN
- Advising on a graduated approach to providing SEND support.
- Liaising with the parents of pupils with SEND.
- Liaising with Early Years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals, and independent or voluntary bodies, as required.

- Being a key point of contact for external agencies, especially the LA and LA support services.
- Liaising with the potential future providers of education to ensure that pupils and their parents are informed about the options, and a smooth transition is planned.
- Being familiar with the provision in the Local Offer and being able to work with professionals who are providing a supporting role to the family.
- Ensuring, as far as possible, that pupils with SEND take part in activities run by the school, together with those who do not have SEND.
- Ensuring that the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEND up-to-date, in line with the school's Data Protection Policy.
- Informing the parents of pupils with SEND, who do not have an EHC plan, that SEND provision is being made.
- Participating in and providing training and CPD opportunities within the school

The DSL will be responsible for:

- Liaising with the Principal to inform them of any issues, especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations regarding pupils with SEND.
- Liaising with the relevant staff on matters of safety, safeguarding and welfare, including online and digital safety regarding pupils with SEND.
- Liaising with the SENDCo, where appropriate, regarding safeguarding concerns
- Promoting supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promote the welfare of pupils with SEND, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances.
- Working with the Principal and relevant strategic leads, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that pupils with SEND are experiencing or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on pupil's attendance, engagement and achievements.
- Recognising the additional risks that pupils with SEND face online, e.g., from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation, and ensuring they have the capability to support pupils with SEND to stay safe online.

Teachers will be responsible for:

- Planning and reviewing support for pupils with SEND on a graduated basis, in collaboration with parents, the SENDCO and, where appropriate, the pupils themselves.
- Setting high expectations for every pupil and aiming to teach them the full, broad curriculum, whatever their prior attainment.
- Planning lessons to address potential areas of difficulty to remove potential barriers to learning.
- Being accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class.

- Being aware of the needs, outcomes sought, and support provided to any pupils with SEND they are working with.

Admissions

Inspire Academy will ensure it meets its duties under the Schools Admissions Code of Practice by:

- Not refusing admission for a child that has a named school in their EHC plan
- Adopting fair practices and arrangements in accordance with the Schools Admissions Code for the admission of children without an EHC plan
- Considering applications from parents of children who have SEN but do not have an EHC plan
- Not refusing admission for a child who has SEN but does not have an EHC plan because the school does not feel able to cater for those needs
- Not refusing admission for a child on the grounds that they do not have an EHC plan.
- Not discriminating against or disadvantaging applicants with SEND

Involving pupils and parents in decision-making

Parents of pupils with SEND will be encouraged to share their knowledge of their child; the Principal and SENDCO will aim to give them the confidence that their views and contributions are valued and will be acted upon.

Parents will always be formally notified when the school provides their child with SEND support. Decisions on whether the school will commission additional provisions will be discussed thoroughly with the LA, parents and, when appropriate, the pupil involved.

Decisions about education will not unnecessarily disrupt a pupil's education or any health treatment underway.

The planning that the school implements will help parents and pupils with SEND express their needs, wishes and goals, and will:

- Focus on the pupil as an individual, not allowing their SEND to become a label.
- Be easy for pupils and their parents to understand by using clear, ordinary language and images, rather than professional jargon.
- Highlight the pupil's strengths and capabilities.
- Enable the pupil, and those who know them best, to say what they have done, what they are interested in and what outcomes they are seeking in the future.
- Tailor support to the needs of the individual.
- Organise assessments to minimise demands on parents.
- Bring together relevant professionals to discuss and agree together the overall approach.

The class teacher, supported by the SENDCO, will meet with pupils and their parents three times per academic year to set clear outcomes, review progress, discuss activities and support, and identify parental responsibilities.

Joint commissioning, planning and delivery

The school is committed to ensuring that pupils with SEND can achieve their ambitions and the best possible educational outcomes, as well as other opportunities, such as securing employment and living as independently as possible.

The school will work closely with local education, health and social care services to ensure pupils get the right support.

The school will assist the LA in carrying out their statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014, by ensuring that services work together where this promotes children and young people's wellbeing or improves the quality of special educational provision (Section 25 of the Children and Families Act 2014). The school will draw on the wide range of local data sets about the likely educational needs of pupils with SEND to forecast future needs, including:

- Population and demographic data.
Prevalence data for different kinds of SEND among children and young people at the national level.
- Numbers of local children with EHC plans and their main needs.
- The numbers and types of settings locally that work with or educate pupils with SEND.
- An analysis of local challenges or sources of health inequalities.
- The school's Data Protection Policy will be adhered to at all times.

The school will plan, deliver and monitor services against how well outcomes have been met, including, but not limited to:

- Improved educational progress and outcomes for pupils with SEND.
- Increasing the identification of pupils with SEND prior to school entry.

Where pupils with SEND also have a medical condition, their provision will be planned and delivered in coordination with the EHC plan.

SEND support will be adapted and/or replaced depending on its effectiveness in achieving the agreed outcomes.

Funding

The school will allocate the appropriate amount of core per-pupil funding and notional SEND budget outlined in the Local Offer for the SEND provision of its pupils. Personal budgets are allocated from the LA's high needs funding block; the school will continue to make SEND provision from its own budgets, even if a pupil has an EHC plan.

Local Offer

The school's governing board will collaborate with and support the LA in developing and reviewing the Local Offer, where necessary and appropriate, to ensure that it is:

- **Collaborative:** Where appropriate, the school will work with LAs, parents and pupils in developing and reviewing the Local Offer. The school will also cooperate with those providing services.
- **Accessible:** The school will collaborate with the LA during development and review to ensure that the LA's Local Offer is easy to understand, factual and jargon-free; is structured in a way that relates to pupils' and parents' needs, e.g. by broad age group or type of special educational provision; and is well signposted and publicised.
- **Comprehensive:** The school will help to ensure that parents and pupils understand what support can be expected to be available across education, health and social care from age 0 to 25 and how to access it. The school will assist the LA in ensuring that the Local Offer includes eligibility criteria for services, where relevant, and makes it clear where to go for information, advice and support, as well as how to make complaints about provision or appeal against decisions.
- **Up-to-date:** The school will work with the LA to review the Local Offer to ensure that, when parents and pupils access the Local Offer, the information is up-to-date.

The school will provide the LA with information about their existing SEND provision and capabilities to support pupils with SEND to aid in the drafting of the Local Offer, where required.

Graduated approach

Once a pupil with SEND has been identified, the school will employ a graduated approach of 'assess, plan, do, and review':

Assess – Detailed assessments will be made by the class teacher and SENDCO. This will be built on teacher observations, informal and formal assessments and tests carried out in school, discussions with you and other professionals. Formal assessments may need to be made by outside agencies and professionals. Consent from parents/carers will always be sought for external referrals as well as for any additional assessments that may be carried out in school.



Plan - With this detailed information and following discussions with parents/carers, the class teacher in partnerships with the SENDCO will plan appropriate SEN support. This information will be recorded on the Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Do - The SEN support will be implemented for a specified amount of time.

Review - Outcomes and Pupil Progress will be reviewed termly by school staff. Parent meetings are held with parents/carers to feedback and seek your views. Any changes to the provision will be made as necessary, in collaboration with you and new outcomes will be set as needed. All support is monitored and reviewed regularly to ensure that there is a positive impact on children's learning and development.

Assessment

The school will, in consultation with the pupil's parents, request a statutory assessment of SEND where the pupil's needs cannot be met through the resources normally available within the school.

Consideration of whether SEND provision is required, and thus an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan) will start with the desired outcomes and the views of the parents and pupil.

The school will meet its duty to respond to any request for information relating to a statutory assessment within six weeks of receipt.

The school will gather advice from relevant professionals about the pupil concerned, including their education, health and care needs, desired outcomes and any special education, health and care provision that may be required to meet their identified needs and achieve desired outcomes.

In tracking the learning and development of pupils with SEND, the school will:

- Base decisions on the insights of the pupil and their parents.
- Set pupils challenging targets.
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- Track pupils' progress towards these goals.
- Review additional or different provisions made for them.
- Promote positive personal and social development outcomes.
- Base approaches on the best possible evidence and ensure that they are having the required impact on progress.

Detailed assessments will identify the full range of the individual's needs, not just the primary need.

Where possible, pupils' needs will be defined under the 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years' broad areas of need:

- Communication and interaction.
- Cognition and learning.
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties.
- Sensory and/or physical needs.

Where a pupil continually makes little or no progress, or is working substantially below expected levels, the school will consult with parents before involving specialists.



EHC plans

The school will fully cooperate with the LA when research about the pupil is being conducted. The school will provide the LA with any information or evidence needed. All relevant teachers will be involved in contributing information to the LA.

Where the LA provides a pupil with an EHC plan, the school will involve the parents and the pupil in discussions surrounding how the school can best implement the plan's provisions to help the pupil thrive in their education, and will discern the expected impact of the provision on the pupil's progress.

The school will meet its duty to provide views on a draft EHC plan within 15 days. If the decision is taken not to issue an EHC plan, the school will consider and implement the recommendations of feedback from the LA regarding how the pupil's outcomes can be met through the school's existing provision.

If the LA decides not to issue an EHC plan, the parents of the pupil, or the pupil themselves, will be informed within a maximum of 16 weeks from the initial request of an EHC assessment.

The school will admit any pupil that names the school in an EHC plan or EHC needs assessment process. The school will ensure that all those teaching or working with a pupil named in an EHC plan are aware of the pupil's needs and that arrangements are in place to meet them.

All reasonable provisions will be taken by the school to provide a high standard of education.

Staff will be briefed about any potential problems and a procedure will be put into place to deal with certain situations. The school will specify short-term targets sought for a pupil in terms of specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound (SMART) outcomes.

Reviewing the EHC plan

The school will:

- Cooperate with the relevant individuals to ensure an annual review meeting takes place, including convening the meeting on behalf of the LA if requested.
- Ensure that the appropriate people are given at least two weeks' notice of the date of the meeting.
- Contribute any relevant information and recommendations about the EHC plan to the LA, keeping parents involved at all times.
- Ensure that sufficient arrangements are put in place at the school to host the annual review meeting.
- Cooperate with the LA during annual reviews.
- Lead the review of the EHC plan in order to create the greatest confidence amongst pupils and their parents.
- Seek advice and information about the pupil prior to the annual review meeting from all parties invited, and send any information gathered to all those invited, at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.
- Prepare and send a report of the meeting to everyone invited within four weeks of the meeting, which sets out any recommendations and amendments to the EHC plan.



- Provide the LA and parents with any evidence to support the proposed changes and giving those involved at least 15 days to comment and make representations.
- Clarify to the parents and pupil that they have the right to appeal the decisions made in regard to the EHC plan.

SEND tribunal

All disagreements about an EHC plan will be attempted to be resolved as quickly as possible, without the pupil's education suffering.

In all cases, the school's written Complaints Procedures Policy will be followed, allowing for a complaint to be considered informally at first.

Following a parent's serious complaint or disagreement about the SEND provisions being supplied to a pupil, the school will contact the LA immediately to seek disagreement resolution advice, regardless of whether an EHC plan is in place.

- Where necessary, the Principal will make the relevant parties aware of the disagreement resolution service.
- Parents are made aware that Ofsted can consider complaints relating to whole school SEND early years provision, if the problem has not been resolved informally.

The school will meet any request to attend a SEND tribunal and explain any departure from its duties and obligations under the 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'.

Following the use of informal resolutions, the case will be heard in front of three people, one of whom must be independent of the management and running of the school. If disagreements are not resolved at a local level, the case will be referred to the DfE. The school will fully cooperate with the LA by providing any evidence or information that is relevant. All staff involved in the care of the pupil will cooperate with parents to provide the pupil with the highest standard of support and education.

Promoting mental health and wellbeing

Positive classroom management and working in small groups will be implemented to promote positive behaviour, social development and high self-esteem. Specialist services will be available where a pupil requires such services. Where appropriate, the school will support parents in the management and development of their child.

Peer mentoring will be used to encourage and support pupils suffering with SEMH difficulties. Mentors will act as a confidant with the aim of easing the worries of their mentee.

When in-school intervention is not appropriate, referrals and commissioning will be used instead. The school will continue to support the pupil as best it can.

For pupils with more complex problems, additional in-school support will include:

- Supporting the pupil's teacher, to help them manage the pupil's behaviour.
- Additional educational one-to-one support for the pupil.
- Mentoring sessions with the Pastoral leader
- Referrals to outside agencies where appropriate
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- Family support and/or therapy, upon the recommendation of mental health professionals

The school will consider whether disruptive behaviour is a manifestation of SEMH needs. The school will focus on work that helps to build self-esteem and self-discipline with the aim of addressing disruptive behaviour.

Safeguarding

The school recognises that evidence shows children with SEND are at a greater risk of abuse and maltreatment and will ensure that staff are aware that pupils with SEND:

- Have the potential to be disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying.
- May face additional risks online, e.g. from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation.
- Are at greater risk of abuse, including, but not limited to, peer-on-peer abuse, neglect and sexual violence or harassment.

The school recognises that there are additional barriers to recognising abuse and neglect in this group of pupils. These barriers include, though are not limited to,

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the pupil's condition without further exploration.
- These pupils being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other pupils.
- The potential for pupils with SEND or certain medical conditions being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs.
- Communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges.

The Principal and governing board will ensure that the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy reflects the fact that these additional barriers can exist when identifying abuse. When using reasonable force in response to risks presented by incidents involving pupils with SEND, staff will have due regard for the procedures outlined in the school's Positive Handling Policy.

Care will be taken by all staff, particularly those who work closely with pupils with SEND, to notice any changes behaviour or mood, or any injuries, and these indicators will be investigated by the DSL in collaboration with the SENDCO.

Supporting successful preparation for adulthood

The school will ensure that pupils are supported to make a smooth transition to whatever they will be doing next, e.g. moving on to higher education.

The school will engage with secondary schools, as necessary, to help plan for any transitions.

The school will transfer all relevant information about pupils to any educational setting that they are transferring to.

If a pupil has been excluded, the school has a duty to arrange suitable, full-time education from the sixth day of a fixed period exclusion and to provide full details of any SEND provisions necessary, in accordance with the school's Exclusion Policy.

If it is in the best interest of the pupil, the school may commission alternative provision, in line with any EHC plans in place, for pupils who face barriers to participate in mainstream education.

The school will take an active role in preparing pupils with SEND for their transition into adult life, preparing them to achieve their ambitions in terms of HE, FE or employment, taking responsibility for their health, where they will live, their relationships, their finances, social integration and independence.

Data and record keeping

The school's records will:

- Include details of SEND, outcomes, action, agreed support, teaching strategies and the involvement of specialists, as part of its standard management information system to monitor the progress, behaviour and development of all pupils.
- Maintain an accurate and up-to-date register of the provision made for pupils with SEND.

The school keeps data on the levels and types of need within the school and makes this available to the LA.

The SEND information report will be prepared by the governing board, and will be published on the school website; it will include all the information outlined in paragraphs 6.79 and 6.83 of the 'Special educational needs and disabilities code of practice: 0 to 25 years'.

All information will be kept in accordance with the school's Records Management Policy and Data Protection Policy. Confidentiality

The school will not disclose any EHC plan without the consent of the pupil's parents, except for disclosure:

- To a SEND tribunal when parents appeal, and to the Secretary of State under the Education Act 1996.
- On the order of any court for any criminal proceedings.
- For the purposes of investigations of maladministration under the Local Government Act 1974.
- To enable any authority to perform duties arising from the Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986, or from the Children Act 1989 relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- To Ofsted inspection teams as part of their inspections of schools and LAs.
- To any person in connection with the pupil's application for students with disabilities allowance in advance of taking up a place in HE.
- To the Principal (or equivalent position) of the setting at which the pupil is intending to start their next phase of education.

The school will adhere to the Pupil Confidentiality Policy at all times.



Resolving disagreements

The school is committed to resolving disagreements between pupils and the school.

In carrying out of duties, the school:

- Supports early resolution of disagreements at the local level.
- Explains the independent disagreement resolution arrangements in our Complaints Procedures Policy, which is available for disagreements across special educational provision, and health and care provision in relation to EHC plans and tribunals.

The school's Complaints Procedures Policy will be published on the school website; additionally, the school will publish details regarding how complaints from parents of children with SEND will be handled.

Publishing information

The school will publish information on the school website about the implementation of this policy. The governing board will publish details of the SEND information report on the school website. The information published will be updated annually and any changes to the information occurring during the year will be updated as soon as possible.

Monitoring and review

The policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the Principal in conjunction with the governing board; any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff, parents of pupils with SEND, and relevant stakeholders.

All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with this policy as part of their induction programme.