



# **Boldon School**

## **SEN Information**

### **Report**

Date of issue	Feb 2019	Review period	Annually
Date of next review	Feb 2020	Author	R Wall
Type of policy	Statutory	Approval	Full Governing Board

## **SEND Information Report**

### **WHAT IS SEND?**

SEND stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and a child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

Here at Boldon School, our vision for children with special educational needs and disabilities is the same as for all children and young people – that they achieve well and lead happy and fulfilled lives. With the focus on inclusion, students with SEND are integrated into the mainstream school and supported through the Learning Support Faculty.

### **THE LEARNING SUPPORT FACULTY**

All staff at Boldon School endeavour to provide a safe and fully equipped learning environment that caters to the needs of every student as an individual. We adopt a 'whole school approach' to special educational needs where all staff work together to ensure inclusion and equal opportunities for all students and demonstrate a strong commitment to ensuring that students with SEND can fulfil their potential and achieve optimal educational outcomes.

Our Learning Support Faculty is focused on providing for those whose academic, physical, social or emotional development is hindering their progress and achievement to have appropriate support so that they can become individual, independent learners and fulfil their potential through high attainment and achievement.

### **Who We Are:**

Acting Head Teacher – Mr I Noble  
 Key Groups Coordinator/SENCo – Mrs R Wall  
 Key Groups Assistant – Miss N Korn  
 SEND Governor – To be confirmed  
 Miss A Patterson - HLTA  
 Mrs L Carey - HLTA

Mrs M Leonard - HLTA  
 Mrs N Gaudie - LSA (NVQ Level 3)  
 Mrs J Johnson - LSA (NVQ Level 3)  
 Mrs M Bravey - LSA (NVQ Level 3)  
 Mrs S Gordon - LSA  
 Mrs C Lockey - LSA  
 Mrs I Marshall - LSA  
 Mrs J Walker - Nurture Teacher  
 Mrs C Fitzgerald - Nurture Teacher  
 Mrs V Korn – Nurture Teacher

### **WHAT WE CAN OFFER**

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AT BOLDON SCHOOL AND THE PROVISIONS MADE**

Boldon is an inclusive school and this is reflected in the number of SEND students we have, with a wide range of needs requiring extensive provision categorised in the following way:

#### ***Communication and Interaction***

Learning difficulties or disabilities including speech, language and communication needs and also those with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

#### ***Cognition and Learning***

Learning difficulties or disabilities including moderate learning difficulties (MLD) and specific learning needs (SPLD) such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

#### ***Social, Emotional and Mental Health Issues***

Learning difficulties or disabilities including social and emotional difficulties and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

#### ***Sensory and/or Physical Needs***

Learning difficulties or disabilities including hearing or visual impairments, cerebral palsy and other physical disabilities.

#### ***Provisions made for the categories of SEND (internal and external):***

- ◆ Continued monitoring and support through the Learning Support Faculty and Learning Mentors
- ◆ Child friendly student profiles and needs-based plans
- ◆ Differentiated curriculum and resources
- ◆ Visual timetables
- ◆ Allocation of support staff where needed throughout the school to ensure student progress and independence
- ◆ Specific resources such as coloured overlays, rulers, grip pens, time-out passes etc.
- ◆ Areas of low distraction provided through the learning mentors
- ◆ Support/supervision at unstructured times of the day, provided through the learning mentors
- ◆ Social skills programme/support including strategies to enhance self-esteem
- ◆ Small group targeted literacy and numeracy intervention programmes
- ◆ Access to ICT to reduce barriers to learning where possible
- ◆ Strategies/programmes to support speech and language development
- ◆ Strategies to reduce anxiety/promote emotional wellbeing
- ◆ Participation in a phonics reading programme to develop reading accuracy
- ◆ Access to the Accelerated Reading Programme
- ◆ Regular small group help focusing on reading accuracy and comprehension
- ◆ Access to Local Authority one-to-one specialist teaching for help with literacy development
- ◆ Placement in small sets
- ◆ Applying for access arrangements such as extra time or readers
- ◆ Access to a broad and balanced curriculum that is relevant and differentiated to suit individual needs
- ◆ Encouraging environment that challenges students to achieve their full potential
- ◆ Effective pastoral care
- ◆ Effective behaviour policy and procedures focusing on positive behaviour and rewards
- ◆ Small group and individually directed programmes to develop social skills, personal behaviour management and emotional resilience
- ◆ Risk assessments when necessary regarding the safety and inclusion of all students in all activities
- ◆ Work placements, vocational courses and Vocational Action Plans (VAPs) are used to offer a distinct approach to the curriculum. This both encourages and supports students with social, emotional and behavioural needs
- ◆ Peer supporter and 'Buddy' programme
- ◆ Nurture/SEND teaching groups for all year groups
- ◆ Access to the LA behaviour provision; 'The Beacon Centre' where KS3 and KS4 students can be referred for therapeutic intervention
- ◆ Access to the School Nurse; Pupil Services including the Educational Psychology Service, EAL Service and the Sensory Impairment Service; Social Services; Services for Young People including Family Workers, Behaviour Support Workers, Transition Mentors, the Emotional Resilience Team and CAMHS.
- ◆ Full medical list and medicine administration policy
- ◆ First-Aid trained staff and duty rota.
- ◆ Fully inclusive environment for blind, deaf and physically disabled students, including accessible toilets/changing/showers, braille signs throughout the school, hearing loops and FM systems.
- ◆ Access to the Hive – student support centre within Boldon School for students with complex and / or specific emotional needs.

#### **IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS WITH SEND**

Boldon School holds teachers responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all

students in their class with high quality teaching, differentiated for individual students, as the first step in responding to students who have or may have SEND.

A student at Boldon School could be identified as having SEND if they are making less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances which can be characterised by any one of the following:

- ◆ Being significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- ◆ Failing to match or better their previous level of progress
- ◆ Failing to close the attainment gap between them and their peers
- ◆ Widening the attainment gap
- ◆ Needing to make additional progress with wider development or social needs in order to make a successful transition to adult life.

Where students require further special educational provision to achieve desired outcomes, assessments are made to determine whether it can be provided by the school's core offer of Student Support or whether something different or additional is required through an Education, Health and Care assessment. Within school, special educational provision is assessed and provided predominantly through the Learning Support Faculty, led by the SENCo.

When a student is identified as requiring further special educational provision, both students and parents/carers are notified and involved in decisions about their support; from identification and assessment to outcomes of additional learning needs. The student is added to the school's Special Educational Needs Register and positive and constructive relationships are made through regular communication face-to-face, over the telephone and/or via email.

## **SEND POLICY AND PROVISIONS**

Boldon School's SEND Policy is available on the school website.

In accordance with the SEND Code of Practice 2015, where a student is identified as having SEN, action is taken to remove barriers to learning and effective special educational provision is put in place.

### **Assessing and Reviewing the Progress of Students with SEND**

At Boldon School, this SEN provision takes the form of a four-part cycle through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the student's needs and of what supports the student in making good progress and securing good outcomes. This is known as the **GRADUATED APPROACH**:

1. **Assess**: the class teacher and SENCo will clearly analyse a student's needs in relation to the learning and progress being made
2. **Plan**: students and parents/carers will be notified in relation to the support and SEN provision to be provided
3. **Do**: the subject teacher will remain responsible for working with the child and implementing the plan. Where the interventions involve group or 1:1 teaching away from the main subject teacher, he/she should still retain responsibility for the student
4. **Review**: the effectiveness of the support should be reviewed in line with an agreed date and the graduated approach continued as necessary.

### **The Curriculum and Learning Environment for Students with SEND**

At Boldon School, students who have been identified as having SEND are fully integrated into mainstream classes in which they have full access to the National Curriculum and equal entitlement to all aspects of the school life.

All students with SEND are integrated in tutorial arrangements, with mixed ability year group form classes. In curriculum areas, the grouping system varies with each year group. In years 7 and 8 students are taught in two parallel-banded groups. Student teaching groups are based on their ability levels with a designated SEND group in each year for those students with MLD. In Years 9, 10 and 11 students are taught in two pathways – Tyne and Wear – based on ability levels, curriculum options and expected levels of progress. Students with SEND who are in lower ability banded classes have the opportunity to mix with the rest of the year group in P.E, technology and pastoral lessons.

We aim to give students of all abilities access to a balanced and broadly based curriculum, including the National Curriculum. The arrangements for this educational provision are a shared responsibility of all staff to ensure appropriate learning experiences are provided.

### **Additional Support for Learning**

The SENCo and Learning Support Faculty hold details and information on all SEND students relating to their broad areas of need. Relevant information on individual students is provided to staff as well as guidance on suitable targets and strategies to best suit students' needs and aid progression.

Collaborative working with Directors of Learning and Heads of Faculty will identify SEND students who are at risk of not making progress, putting appropriate strategies and interventions in place to help students overcome barriers and secure good outcomes.

### **Improving the Emotional, Mental and Social Development of Students with SEND**

Boldon School has a very effective pastoral system that supports students throughout their school day,

lead through the Pastoral Faculty. Every student in the school is based directly within their academic year group and assigned to a form class. Each form class will meet the form tutor every afternoon for either a 30 minute tutorial or year group assembly. The Pastoral Faculty consists of:

- ◆ Assistant Head for Pastoral and Behaviour
- ◆ Director of Learning and Assistant Progress Leader – Y7&9/ Y8&10/Y11
- ◆ Learning Mentors
- ◆ The Hive – 1 support staff
- ◆ Attendance Officers
- ◆ Behaviour Support Centre / Inclusion Manager

SEND students are integrated into their year group, with each year group having an experienced team of tutors who will develop the form tutor/student relationship over a period of five years. The tutor is in a position to watch each student grow and learn, developing relationships over a long period of time and act to support when necessary.

The Learning Mentors work closely with the majority of SEND students, providing additional support and mentoring and intervention as required, through individual or group sessions based on the student and their needs.

### **The Expertise and Training of Staff in Relation to Students with SEND**

The Learning Support Faculty has expertise in supporting and teaching students with SEND across all curriculum areas and both key stages.

Wider-school in-service training and professional development for staff in relation to SEND is co-ordinated by a member of the Senior Leadership Team based on departmental/pastoral annual reviews and reviews of the school development plan. SEND in-service training is then arranged by the SENCo, on a whole school, group or departmental basis as appropriate. Training may

take the form of working with outside agencies or guest speakers or may be 'in house' with the SENCo and Learning Support Faculty training fellow teachers. All staff members are encouraged to acquire skills appropriate to working with students with SEND.

Each year the SENCo runs an in-service training session on SEND for all newly qualified teachers (NQTs) as part of the school induction programme. Additional training sessions are run each year by the SENCo for all PGCE students on both diagnostic and final teaching practices.

The training needs of the SENCo and learning support staff are met through a combination of in house training, local L.E.A. in-service training, short courses at higher education institutions, attending national courses run by recognised service providers and through membership of NASEN (National Association of Special Educational Needs).

### **Specialist Expertise for Students with SEND**

If the required provision for SEND stretches beyond that which the school can provide within its core offer, it will call upon the services of external agencies, including the Educational Psychology Service, Sensory Impaired Support Service, Speech and Language Services and the English as an Additional Language Support Service. The SENCo will contact the required service once parental permission has been given for referral. In some cases it will be sufficient to discuss the student's difficulties with the appropriate external agency and to implement the strategies suggested, whereas in other cases it will be necessary to involve an external agency directly in assessment and action, in consultation with parents.

The SENCo and class teacher, together with the specialists, will consider a range of well-founded and effective teaching approaches, appropriate equipment, strategies and interventions in order to support the child's progress. They will agree the

outcomes to be achieved through the support, including a date by which progress will be reviewed. Support will be adapted or replaced depending on how effective it has been in achieving the expected outcomes.

### **Equipment and Facilities to Support Students with SEND**

The Learning Support Faculty has their own specialist teaching base, SC4 and their faculty office, all of which are used for support and intervention. There are no specific SEND specialisms or special units at Boldon School.

There is full access for wheelchairs into and around the school and a lift that ensures access to all floors. There are four accessible toilets and in addition there are three accessible showers /toilets.

To assist students with a range of SEND we have textured flooring areas and coloured 'zones' indicating the different subject areas, stairwells and doorways. There are also brail signs for each classroom and facility within the school.

There is an Induction Loop System to assist students with hearing aids in two of the classrooms.

### **Involving Others in Supporting Students with SEND: Health and Social Services,**

#### **LA Support Services and Voluntary Organisations**

The school aims to work in partnership with health, social services and educational welfare services to bring about the best possible outcomes for students with SEND, alongside additional LA support services and voluntary organisations who can support a student in their educational needs. The SENCO, Director of Learning, Inclusion Support Manager or Learning Mentor are able to make a referral to these agencies when there is felt to be cause for concern. Information received from these agencies is then used to adopt a framework to appropriately and most effectively support the student.

There are also two members of staff who are designated as the Child Protection Officers (Mrs L Pippin and Mr I Noble). They are the point of contact in school for all issues relating to child protection.

### **Supporting Students with SEND during Transition**

Students with SEND are included in all transition arrangements, with particular focus on Y6, Y9 and Y11. At Y6, in the term before transition, the SENCo contacts each feeder primary school to discuss any students who may have special educational needs. Their needs are then reviewed at meetings the term before transfer to Boldon School, involving all persons involved with the education and wellbeing of the child.

On invitation from primary schools, the SENCo also attends all Year 6 Annual Review meetings for Students with EHC Plans who are due to transfer to Boldon School.

There is also a team of Transition Mentors linked to South Tyneside primary schools that provide additional liaison and support for SEND students. These Transition Mentors work closely with Boldon's Learning Mentor team to ensure a continuity of care and guidance at this critical stage.

From Y9 through to Y11 transition, Boldon School works with an allocated careers advisor from Services for Young People who gives support and advice to SEND students on appropriate courses or training to ensure that they receive appropriate support at for their next educational options or placement.

### **School Evaluation: The Effectiveness of SEND Provisions**

The effectiveness of SEND provisions are monitored regularly by the SENCo, in consultation with the SEND Governor, Head Teacher, Heads of Faculty and Directors of Learning. Feedback from

parents/carers and students is also used highly as a measure of the effectiveness of SEND provisions. Ultimately, student progress is overwhelming evidence of the success of SEND provisions. The criteria that is used to evaluate the success of the school's SEN provisions include progress in any of the following areas:

- ◆ Achievement of targets
- ◆ Progress from Key Stages 2 to 4, based on expected levels of progress
- ◆ External examination results, including GCSE results
- ◆ Improvement in reading ages and other standardised test results
- ◆ Improvement in attainment in English and Maths.
- ◆ Movement of students on and off the SEND Register, demonstrating effective monitoring and intervention
- ◆ Positive changes in students' behaviour
- ◆ Improvements in attendance
- ◆ Increased motivation to learn
- ◆ Increased self esteem

### **WHO CAN HELP? THE LOCAL OFFER**

#### ***What is the Local Offer?***

The Local Offer is the publication, setting out in one place, of information about provision available across education, health and social care for all children and young people in South Tyneside who have SEN or are disabled.

Our Local Offer can be found at:

<https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/37973/Our-Local-Offer>

Parents can also contact the local Parent Partnership Service for impartial information, advice and support in relation to their child's SEND at: [SENDIASS@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:SENDIASS@southtyneside.gov.uk)

Tel: 0191 4246345

## **ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS**

Any parent/carer wishing to complain about special educational provision in the school should follow the general school complaints procedure. Complaints should initially be taken up with the Head Teacher. If parents are not satisfied that the complaint has been dealt with adequately, the matter can then be referred to the Chairman of Governors. The SEND Code of Practice 2015 outlines additional measures the LA must set up for preventing and resolving disagreements and these measures will be explained to parents/carers who contact the LA.