

Horizon Community College SEND Policy

*Amended:
November 2020*

*Ratified:
November 2020*



SEND POLICY

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Section 1 Aims and Objectives of this Policy

As a mainstream academy, Horizon Community College is committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for students with SEND and raising the expectations and aspirations of all.

We work in collaboration with other schools and multi-agencies across the Local Authority and beyond to ensure consistency of approach. Members of staff attend relevant training in the graduated approach – all staff receive basic awareness training and staff who work directly with children who have a particular need receive enhanced training which addresses how to meet that need on a regular basis.

The 2015 SEND Code of Practice states:

“All children and young people are entitled to an education that enables them to make progress so that they:

achieve their best

become confident individuals living fulfilling lives, and

make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training.” [6.1.2015]

As a college our principles are to:

- Reach high levels of inclusion for all
- Value all students in college equally
- Ensure all students have their personal need recognised and addressed
- Ensure consideration of SEND crosses all curriculum areas and all aspects of teaching and learning
- Create clear records and maintain them to ensure communication of progress and awareness of need
- Support clear liaison with staff, parents/carers and outside agencies
- Develop good working relationships with feeder schools ahead of primary-secondary transfer to ensure continuity of appropriate strategies and programmes of work
- Advise staff on appropriate resources, materials, targets, strategies and evaluation
- Provide in-class support and individual programmes of work where appropriate
- Maintain and ~~up~~ update the SEND Register

Our objectives are:

- To identify students with SEND and ensure that their needs are met
- To ensure all students have equal access to a broad and balanced curriculum which is differentiated to meet individual needs and abilities
- To provide high quality support
- To maximise opportunities for students with SEND to join in all aspects of college life
- To ensure that students are allowed to express their views and opinions and are involved in decisions which affect their education

- To ensure that parents/carers are informed of their child's SEND and to acknowledge and draw on parents/carers knowledge and expertise in relation to their child
- To secure effective collaboration with relevant external agencies
- To reinforce SEND as an issue for the whole college
- To outline processes that comprise the cycle of assessment and review
- To ensure practice complies with the guidance and expectations of the Disability Equality Scheme and contributes to the discharge of the college's Disability Equality Duty

This policy will be reviewed and ratified annually by the Governing body.

Section 2 Legislative Compliance

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in Paragraph 3.66 of the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 July 2014. It also meets the requirements of the Statutory Instrument: Special Educational Needs (Information) Regulations (Clause 65).

This guidance is for staff, parents /carers, children and practitioners across education, health and care agencies. It is written with reference to the following further guidance and documents:

- Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and SEND Code of Practice July 2014
- Equality Act 2010, subsequent updates and DfE advice for schools, February 2013
- Statutory Guidance on Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions, April 2014
- Ofsted Inspection Framework, January 2019
- Teachers Standards 2012
- National Inclusion Statement
- Schools SEND Information Report Regulations 2014

Our college has separate policies in place for:

Safeguarding, Accessibility, Disability Equality, Inclusion, Anti-Bullying also other appropriate policies.

Our SEND Information Report sets out how we are implementing our SEND Policy and meeting our duties under the Equality Act 2010. This can be located on our website under the heading 'Reports'.

The Department for Education has published a Guide for Parents on the SEND Code of Practice which can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-supporteasy-read-guide-for-parents>

Section 3 Duties to Manage SEND within our College

Name of Principal: Mrs Huddart

Name of Director of SEND and Inclusion: Miss Walker

Name of SENDCO: Mrs Proud

Name of Deputy SENDCO: Mrs Askey

Name of Assistant SENDCO: Miss Crawford

3.1 General

The Principal and the Governing Body have delegated the responsibility for the ongoing implementation of this SEND Policy to our Director of SEND and Inclusion (SENDCO accredited) and the SENDCO. They are responsible for reporting regularly to the Principal and the Governor with responsibility for SEND on the ongoing effectiveness of this policy. The Designated Member of Staff for Looked After Children has strategic responsibility for the inclusion of children who are adopted or in local authority care and will work in close partnership with the Inclusion Team where a child may also have SEND.

All staff in school have a responsibility for maximising the achievement and opportunity of vulnerable and disadvantaged learners. All staffing appointments to support any vulnerable or disadvantaged student will be carried out in accordance with equal opportunities legislation, employment law, safer recruiting policy and best practice. All vacancies will be competitively advertised and recruited.

3.2 Principal

The Principal is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of all students and for making strategic decisions which will maximise their opportunity to learn and will ensure:

- the day to day management of all aspects of the college's work includes provision for students with SEND
- that the Governing Body are kept fully informed
- appoint and work closely with the SENDCO to ensure the policy is maintained
- communicate the policy to ensure consistency/understanding
- support HoS (Head of School/Subject Leaders in promotion/monitoring of the policy
- oversee documentation and sign statutory annual review documents as/when necessary.

3.3 Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDCO)

Our SENDCO will oversee the day- to-day operation of this policy and will:

- be a qualified teacher. If our SENDCO has not been employed in this capacity at our school or elsewhere for at least 12 months, he/she will gain statutory accreditation within three years of appointment
- strategically support the quality of teaching, evaluate the quality of support and contribute to school improvement
- maintain and analyse our whole-school provision map for vulnerable and disadvantaged students
- identify on the provision map those students requiring SEND support from the college's delegated budget, students in receipt of High Needs funding and with Education Health and Care plans
- co-ordinate provision for students with SEND
- liaise with and advise teachers and other classroom/targeted support staff
- manage the records on all students with SEND
- liaise with parents of children with SEND, in conjunction with School Teams
- contribute to the in-service training of staff as part of the college's development plan and annual schedule of continuous professional development
- review and revise learning and wider outcomes on ISPs
- co-ordinate multi agency meetings and statutory Annual Reviews for students with an Education Health and Care Plan or comply with requests to participate in meetings led by other lead practitioners
- ensure effective and timely transition arrangements for students moving into and out of our college
- evaluate regularly the impact and effectiveness of all additional interventions for students with SEND
- follow Local Authority guidance and procedures when it is considered that a student with significant and long-term SEND may require significant support through statutory processes
- liaise closely with a range of outside agencies to support vulnerable learners

3.4 Teaching Staff

Our teachers will:

- focus on outcomes for every student and the outcome wanted from any SEND support
- be responsible for meeting special educational needs under the guidance of the SENDCO and Principal
- have high aspirations for every student setting clear progress targets
- involve parents and the student in planning and reviewing progress: sharing information, seeking their views and providing regular updates on progress

3.5 Learning Support Assistants/Inclusion Support

LSAs are part of our whole college approach to SEND working in partnership with the subject teacher, their relevant Team Leader and the SENDCO. We deploy our LSAs depending on their level of experience and the needs of learner. LSAs can be part of a package of support for the individual student but are never a substitute for the teacher's involvement with that child.

Section 4 Profile and Values

Our College Profile

Horizon Community College is part of a mainstream Academy serving students from the age of 11 to 16. It is our primary aim that every member of the college community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. The presence of students with either a disability or special educational needs is warmly welcomed by all College staff and Governors. Every opportunity will be taken to ensure that these students, along with all others, are treated equitably and fairly at all times. Horizon Community College is an inclusive college which accommodates all kinds of special educational needs and disabilities. These are classified according to 4 main categories as referred to in the reforms to the SEND Code of Practice (2015):

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Sensory and/or Physical

These four broad categories give an overview of the range of needs that the college plans for with good outcomes achieved for these students. Support and provision are directly led by the planned outcomes for the student and the progress the student makes towards these. The person centred planned outcomes therefore are the primary focus of the college.

Our College Values

We celebrate our students' strengths, interests and individuality. We have high expectations and aspirations daily for all our students. The views, wishes and feelings of our students are central to all we do. We work positively and proactively with parents/carers and others involved. All our students are entitled to a broad, balanced and relevant education and to feel secure, safe and valued. All students are encouraged to participate in the life of our college. All our teachers are teachers of students with SEND and are responsible for their progress and development.

We believe students thrive and achieve their potential through:

- A safe and secure environment, where they do not fear failure, as it is a stepping-stone to greater success and understanding

- A happy place where their thoughts, feelings and interests are used by our teachers to provide an interesting learning experience and create an atmosphere of belonging
- A warm, caring atmosphere, where communication, teamwork and independence are a central part of the college ethos and students are encouraged to develop them through celebration and reward
- A curriculum based on a broad and balanced learning journey, which is stimulating, practical, skills based and caters for students' needs on an individual basis
- Equal access to the curriculum, regardless of ability, gender, race, or religion
- Developing and nurturing an appreciation of the importance learning
- An environment that focuses on the development of the whole student

Section 5 Definitions of SEND and Disability

5.1 SEND Definition

A student 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.

*“A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:
has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.”* [DfE (2015) SEND Code of Practice]

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for others of the same age. This means provision that goes beyond the differentiated approaches and learning arrangements normally provided as part of high quality, personalised teaching.

Students may be identified as having long term and significant SEND if they are not making adequate progress despite good quality, differentiated Quality First teaching and all relevant and purposeful interventions and strategies being in place.

5.2 Communication and Interaction (C and I)

Students with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. 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. The profile for every student with SLCN is different and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some or all of the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives.

Students with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), 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.

5.3 Cognition and Learning (C and L)

Support for learning difficulties may be required when students learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with the right level of differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including:

- Moderate learning difficulties (MLD)
- Severe learning difficulties (SLD), where support may be needed in all areas of the curriculum and with mobility and communication; and
- Profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), where students are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment
- Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia

5.4 Social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH)

Behaviour difficulties become special educational needs (as defined by the SEND Code of Practice 2015) called 'SEMH' when there is a detrimental impact of social, emotional or mental health needs, resulting in the student not attaining at age expected levels.

For example, a student who is having difficulty regulating their emotions at school (either due to their own internal regulation difficulties or external factors) and who is unable to implement the behaviours-for-learning required to make expected progress and attainment, may be described as having a special educational need.

Students and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which are noticeable 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 students and young people may have conditions such as attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) or attachment disorder (AD).

The Department for Education (DfE) has published Guidance on managing students' mental health and behaviour difficulties in schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-inschools--2>

5.5 Sensory and/or physical needs

Some students and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. These difficulties can be age related and may fluctuate over time.

Many students and young people with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning, or habilitation support. Students and young people with an MSI have a combination of vision and hearing difficulties.

Some students and young people with a physical disability (PD) require additional on-going support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

5.6 Difficulties which may not be related to SEND

Some students in our college may be underachieving, which may be caused by a poor early experience of learning but will not necessarily have a special educational need. It is our responsibility to spot this quickly and ensure that appropriate interventions are put in place to help these students 'catch up'.

Difficulties related solely to difficulties in English as an additional language are not SEND. We assess all aspects of a student's performance in different areas of learning and development to establish whether lack of progress is due to their poor understanding of English or if it arises from SEND or a disability.

The following concerns may impact on a student's progress and attainment but are not in themselves indicators of SEND:

- Attendance and Punctuality
- Health and Welfare
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant
- Being a Looked After child
- Being a child of Serviceman/woman

5.7 Disability

The definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010 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 students than may be expected: 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'.

This definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and cancer. Students with such conditions do not necessarily have SEND, but there is a significant overlap between disabled students and those with SEND.

Where a disabled student or young person requires special educational provision, they will also be covered by the SEND definition.

The DDA, as amended by the SEND and Disability Act 2001, places a duty on all Academies to increase - over time - the accessibility of schools for disabled pupils and to implement their plans. Academies are required to produce written accessibility plans for their individual Academy.

Section 6 Graduated Approach to Identifying if a Child Requires SEND Support

Whole college general identification and assessment of students' needs are identified and met as early as possible through:

- observation, assessment, target setting and monitoring arrangements (cycle of assessment, plan, do and review (APDR) via Individual Support Plans)
- listening to and taking into account the student's views, wishes and feelings
- one-page profiles (Thumbnails), ISPs, medical care plan, provision map (group or individual), in-school tracking systems
- the analysis of data including baseline assessments and end of Key Stage achievement to track individual students' progress over time
- reviewing and improving teachers' understanding of a wide range of needs and effective strategies to meet those needs
- exchanging information from other services across education, health, care and the voluntary sector
- in college diagnostic testing to inform interventions or approaches
- involving an external agency, and the Educational Psychology Service (EPS) as a minimum, where it is considered that a special educational need may be significant and long term and may require more in-depth and frequently reviewed cycles of assess, plan, do and review

6.2 General provision for all students using core school funding

All students will have access to well-differentiated, Quality First Teaching enhanced, where appropriate, through low level, short term interventions.

Students who are underachieving will have been identified as needing to make accelerated progress but will not necessarily be students with SEND.

6.3 Examples of Curriculum Access and Provision

Where students are underachieving and/or identified as having high incidence (low need) special educational needs, the college meets these additional needs in a variety of ways. We use a combination of approaches to address targets identified for individual students:

- Teachers differentiate learning activities as part of Quality First Teaching
- Targeted additional adult group and, where appropriate, individual support
- Diagnostic assessments of need fed into interventions
- Bilingual support/access to materials in translation
- Differentiation of curriculum resources
- SMART setting of outcomes
- Booster intervention groups
- Emotional care, nurture, and friendship support groups

6.4 Monitoring and Evaluation of progress

- Ongoing assessment of progress against targets and expected outcomes.
- Scrutiny of planning and level of differentiation and use of classroom resources
- Informal feedback from all staff
- Student and parental questionnaires and conversations specifically via the Annual Review and application for EHCP process
- Student progress tracking using assessment data (whole college processes)
- Attendance records and liaison with Education Welfare Officer (EWO) where appropriate

6.5 Additional SEND Support provision, monitoring and review using college's delegated additional needs funding

The Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice 2015 has introduced SEND Support (K) to replace School Action and School Action Plus from September 2014. Meetings with parents occur in relation to their child's SEND at appropriate times throughout the year. Every school has a whole school annual budget made up of core funding per child on roll at a point in time and additional SEND funding which is calculated based upon a formula agreed by schools locally. In line with national school funding, our college will deploy a minimum of £6,000 per child per year to contribute to meeting additional needs above the usual teaching and learning entitlement.

In addition to the identification, assessment, provision and monitoring for all students, our approach to SEND Support is as follows:

- The Team Leader/Head of School, sometimes with the SENDCO, will discuss with parents if we feel that their child requires SEND Support
- Additional SEND support will be in place when a student's needs require intervention which is "additional to" or "different from" the well differentiated curriculum offer

- We will agree SMART targets towards long, medium and short-term outcomes that are reviewed termly with parents and their child as appropriate (on an Individual Support Plan)
- Students will have targets they can understand
- Our ISPs are a planning, teaching and reviewing tool which enables us to focus on particular areas of development for students with special educational needs. They are seen as working document which can be constantly refined and amended
- We will use the latest LA's guidance on SEND Descriptors
- Targets will address the underlying reasons why a student is having difficulty with learning
- Our ISPs will be accessible to all those involved in their implementation – students should have an understanding and ownership of their ISP
- Our ISPs will state what the student can do, what the student has difficulties doing and how they will be supported to move forward with learning and wider outcomes
- Our ISPs will have SMART target outcomes
- Target Outcomes for an ISP will be arrived at through:
 - *discussion, wherever possible, with parents/carers,
 - *teachers, support staff and the student involvement
 - *discussion with other practitioners as appropriate
 - *classroom observations by the college's Special Educational Needs and disability Co-ordinator (SENDSCO) and other senior leaders (as appropriate)
- Our ISPs will be time-limited – at review, there will be an agreed “where to next?”
- Our ISPs will be based on informed assessment and will include the input of appropriate outside agencies particularly where concerns are significant and may require consideration of a statutory assessment if expected progress is not made over time

Where the student's School Team, SENDSCO and parent agree that the student has made good progress, it may be appropriate for needs to be met through effective class-based strategies, resources and whole college interventions and assessment. In this instance, the student would no longer be recorded as being in receipt of SEND Support.

Section 7 Request for Statutory Education, Health & Care Assessment

For some students with SEND, despite the college, family and other agencies working together to put in place all relevant and purposeful interventions and support, expected progress is not made. In these circumstances, external agencies, particularly an Educational Psychologist, will already have been involved in discussing, assessing the student and/or contributing to their provision.

When specialist equipment or a high level of staffing support is required to support a student with SEND, our college will fund this as part of additional SEND support up to £6,000 per year for each individual student. Students with no SEND but with a disability under the Equality Act definition may need equipment provided as a reasonable adjustment as long as this is not cost prohibitive.

Specialist equipment and expertise in relation to its use will be purchased/hired/ commissioned by the college from the open market, subject to the usual guarantees, service level agreements and quality assurance criteria. Our college will, wherever possible, join with other schools in joint purchasing/hire of equipment.

For some students, additional provision and support will need to be deployed for the longer term in order to meet their needs and planned outcomes effectively. A multi-agency meeting will discuss if it is appropriate to submit a request to the Local Authority to consider whether a statutory assessment of education, health and care needs is necessary. Advice will be sought from the LA's SEND Team before a request is submitted.

Section 8 Statement of Special Educational Needs or Educational Health and Care Plan

Students with an Education Health and Care Plan (post September 2014) will have access to all arrangements for students in receipt of SEND Support and, in addition to this, will have an Annual Review of their statement/plan. Supplementary or early reviews may be called if required.

Our review procedures fully comply with those recommended in Section 6.56 and 9.173-6 of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2014.

Section 9 Partnership with Parents and Carers

Our College aims to work in partnership with parents and carers. We do so by:

- Working effectively with all other agencies supporting students 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
 - Encouraging parents and carers to inform college of any difficulties they feel their child may be having or other needs their child may have which need addressing
 - Instilling confidence that the college will listen and act appropriately
 - Focusing on the student's strengths as well as areas of additional need
 - Allowing parents and carers opportunities to discuss ways in which they and the college can help their child
 - Keeping parents and carers informed and giving support during assessment and any related decision-making process
 - Making parents and carers aware of sources of information, advice and support
 - Providing all information in an accessible way for parents with English as an Additional Language
- Producing a SEND Information Report that will be published on the college website;
and

- Publishing information about the Pupil Premium (expenditure & impact) on the college website
- Consulting students, parents, carers and the community of the College on issues of accessibility and equality

Section 10 Involvement of Students

Students have the right to be involved in making decisions and exercising choice. We endeavour to involve all students fully by encouraging them to:

- Share their views about their education and learning
- Identify their own needs and learn about learning
- Share in individual target setting across the curriculum so that they know what their targets are and why they have them
- Self-review their progress and set new targets
- Monitor their success at achieving the targets on their ISP

Section 11 Supporting Students at College with Medical Conditions

Some students in our college have medical conditions that require care and support to enable full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Some students with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case the college will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Some may also have special educational needs (SEND) and may have an EHCP which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision.

Section 12 Effective Transition

For all students, we will ensure early and timely planning for transfer into our school, within our college year groups and onto the next phase of education.

When students are due to leave our college, they and their parents will be encouraged to consider all options for the next phase of education. We will involve outside agencies, as appropriate, to ensure information is impartial, comprehensive but easily accessible and understandable. Accompanied visits to other providers may be arranged as appropriate.

We will discuss transition needs of all students with an Education Health and Care Plans at their statutory Annual Reviews.

A transition plan will be produced and shared with the family with the involvement of the receiving school.

For student with an Education Health & Care Plan in transition years, the Director of SEND will also be invited to attend any Annual Reviews for the students who are transferring.

Section 13 Admission Arrangements

No student will be refused admission to college on the basis of his or her special educational need, ethnicity or language need. In line with the Equalities Act 2010, we will not discriminate against disabled children and we will take all reasonable steps to provide effective educational provision (see Admission policy for the Academy).

Section 14 Accessibility and Exam Access Arrangements

The statutory examinations our students take are designed to be accessible to the majority of students in the specified amount of time without any modification. In the case of students with SEND, they may be eligible for access arrangements. However, these arrangements must be part of normal classroom practice for the student.

If it is deemed appropriate for access arrangements to be put in place for a student (extra time, reader, scribe) then they will be assessed by a person holding the required qualification (CPT3A) and relevant JCQ documentation will be entered into the system by the Exams Officer.

Section 15 Storing and Managing Information

Our College aims to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, pupils, parents, governors, visitors and other individuals is collected, stored and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the expected provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) as set out in the Data Protection Bill.

Section 16 Complaints

If there are any complaints relating to the provision for students with SEND these will be dealt with in the first instance by the HOS. In the case of an unresolved complaint the issue should be taken through the College complaints procedure.

Section 17 Other Key Members of Staff in our College

Name of Designated Teachers with specific Safeguarding responsibility:

Mrs Huddart (Principal)
Mrs Saeed (Associate Principal)
Miss Collins (Vice Principal - Standards)
Mrs Malson (Assistant Principal - Head of School 7)
Mr Middleton (Assistant Principal - Head of School 8)
Mr Irving (Assistant Principal - Head of School 9)
Miss Winterburn (Assistant Principal - Head of School 11)

Name of member of staff responsible for managing PPG/LAC funding – Mr Bowden

Name of member of staff responsible for managing the college's responsibility for meeting the medical needs of pupils - Mrs Pollard

Section 18 Links with Other Services

Effective working links are maintained with:

- Educational Psychology Service
- The Special Educational Needs Team: 01226 773966
- SENDIASS
- Attendance & Pupil Welfare Service
- Virtual School for Children in Care
- Children with Disabilities Team

Section 19 Information on where Barnsley's Local Authority's Local Offer is Published

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/send-local-offer/>