

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy 2026

Nethergate Academy

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1. Aims and objectives

Our special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy aims to:

- Make sure our school fully implements national legislation and guidance regarding pupils with SEND
- Our school will:
 - Make provision for all pupils with a range of special educational needs and disabilities
 - Provide pupils with access to all aspects of school life.
 - Help pupils with SEND fulfil their aspirations and achieve their best
 - Help pupils with SEND become confident individuals living fulfilling lives
 - Help pupils with SEND make a successful transition into adulthood
 - Communicate with pupils with SEND and their parents or carers and involve them in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil.
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEND
- Communicate with, and involve, pupils with SEND and their parents or carers in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Make sure the SEND policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff

2. Vision and values

Nethergate Academy Core Purpose

To enable every individual to achieve a place of value in society through education and the promotion of equality.

Our Values

- Compassion
- Aspiration
- Respect
- Equality
- Trust
- Kindness

At Nethergate we understand the impact of communication and sensory needs and the importance of meeting these. We provide all pupils with access to a broad, balanced and appropriate curriculum. We are committed to making sure all our pupils have the support they need to thrive. We have a culture of unconditional positive regard for all of our pupils. We support them by providing high quality learning experiences in a carefully planned environment, where provision is tailored to the needs and abilities of pupils, no matter how varied..

3. Legislation and guidance

This is based on the statutory guidance [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#), [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) and [working together to improve school attendance](#).

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

- [Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEND

- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN co-ordinators (SENCOs) and the special educational needs (SEN) information report
- The [Equality Act 2010](#) (section 20), which sets out the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities
- The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes having a disability) and those who don't share it
- The governance guide for [academy trusts](#) which sets out trustees' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- The [School Admissions Code](#), which sets out the school's obligation to admit all pupils whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and its duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special educational needs

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

4. Inclusion and equal opportunities

At our school we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all pupils, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We are committed to offering all pupils the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations.

We achieve this by having highly trained and skilled staff who are experts at planning for and teaching pupils with a wide range of SEN. We are aware of the barriers which exist for pupils with SEND and we are proactive in removing them.

5. Definitions

5.1 Special educational needs

A pupil has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision to be made for them.

They have **learning difficulties or a disability** if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age, or
- A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

5.2 Disability

Pupils are considered to have a **disability** if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

The school will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

5.3 The 4 areas of need

The needs of pupils with SEND are grouped into 4 broad areas. Pupils can have needs that cut across more than 1 area, and their needs may change over time.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the pupil's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or not understand or use the social rules of communication. Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.
Cognition and learning	Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers. A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including: • Specific learning difficulties, which impact 1 or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia • Moderate learning difficulties • Severe learning difficulties • Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment
Social, emotional and mental health	These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have: • Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder • Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder • Suffered adverse childhood experiences These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.
Sensory and/or physical	Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided. Pupils may have: • A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment • A physical impairment These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The SENCO

The SENCO at our school is Sarah Heery

She will:

- › Work with the principal and SLT to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school
- › Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching
- › Be a point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to make sure that appropriate provision is provided
- › Liaise with potential next providers of education to make sure that the pupil and their parents/carers are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned
- › When a pupil moves to a different school or institution: Make sure that all relevant information about a pupil's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution in a timely manner
- › Work with the principal and GAT to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- › Make sure the school keeps its records of all pupils with SEND up to date and accurate
- › With the principal, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- › With the principal, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- › Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy
- › With the principal and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

6.2 The board of trustees

The board of trustees is responsible for making sure the following duties are carried out, though the duties can be delegated to a committee or an individual:

- › Co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and developing the local offer
- › Do all it can to make sure that every pupil gets the support they need
- › Make sure that the school has arrangements in place to support any pupils with medical conditions
- › Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils
- › Have a clear approach to identifying and responding to pupils' SEND
- › Provide an annual report for parents/carers on their child's progress at their EHCP review
- › Record accurately and keep up to date the provision made for all pupils
- › Publish information on the school website about how the school is implementing its SEND policy, in an SEN information report
- › Publish information about the arrangements for the admission of children and the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and the school's accessibility plans
- › Make sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENCO for the school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out, and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out
- › Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND
- › [Secondary schools only] Make sure that all pupils from year 8 until year 13 are provided with independent careers advice

6.3 The SEND Trustee

The SEND link director is **Denise Williams**

The SEND trustee will:

- Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at governing board meetings
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within the school and update the governing board on this
- Work with the principal and SENCO to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school

6.4 The principal

The principal will:

- Work with the SENCO and SEND link trustee to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school
- Work with the SENCO and school trustees to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for pupils with SEND, and their progress
- Make sure that the SENCO has enough time to carry out their duties
- Advise the LA when an EHC plan needs an early review
- With the SENCO, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- With the SENCO, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- With the SENCO and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

6.5 Class teachers

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is differentiated to meet pupil needs through a graduated approach
- The progress and development of every pupil in their class
- Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- Working with the SENCO to review each pupil's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision
- Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report
- Communicating with parents/carers regularly to:
 - Set clear outcomes and review progress towards them
 - Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set outcomes
 - Identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school
 - Listen to the parents'/carers' concerns and agree their aspirations for the pupil

6.6 Parents or carers

Parents or carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development.

Parents or carers will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about the pupil's SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support.

They will be:

- Invited to parents' meetings to review the provision that is in place for their child
- Asked to provide information about the impact of SEN support outside school and any changes in the pupil's needs
- Given the opportunity to share their concerns and, with school staff, agree their aspirations for the pupil
- Given the opportunity to attend an annual EHCP review to discuss the pupil's progress

The school will take into account the views of the parents or carers in any decisions made about the pupil.

6.7 The pupil

As part of the EHCP process, pupils will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. This might involve the pupil:

- Explaining what their strengths and difficulties are
- Contributing to setting targets or outcomes
- Attending review meetings
- Giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions

The pupil's views will be taken into account in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.

7. SEN information report

The school publishes an SEN information report on its website, which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school.

The information report will be updated annually and as soon as possible after any changes to the information it contains.

8. Our approach to SEND support

8.1 Identifying pupils with SEND and assessing their needs

We assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment when they start at the school. This will build on information from previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate.

Class teachers regularly assess the progress of all pupils and identify any whose progress:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better their previous rate of progress

This may include progress in areas other than attainment, for example, wider development or social needs.

When a teacher assesses that a child needs support with communication or regulation they will discuss this with the SENCO. The SENCO will contact parents and make any necessary referrals to professionals such as Speech and Language (SALT) or occupational Therapy (OT).

School will consider if they are known to external agencies then the school will work in a multi-agency way to make sure we get relevant information before the pupil starts at school, so support can be put in place as early as possible.

8.2 Consulting and involving pupils and parents/carers

The school will put the pupil and their parents/carers at the heart of all decisions made about their educational provision.

When we are identifying a pupil's needs, we have an early discussion with the pupil and their parents/carers. These conversations will make sure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty
- We take into account any concerns the parents/carers have
- Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child
- Everyone is clear on what the next steps are

Notes of these early discussions will be added to the pupil's record and given to their parents/carers usually through the EHCP process.

8.3 The graduated approach to SEN support

When a pupil joins Nethergate Academy we take action to identify and remove any barriers to learning, and put effective special educational provision in place and provide an appropriate learning environment. This support will be delivered through successive rounds of a 4-part cycle known as the graduated approach.

1. Assess

When a pupil joins Nethergate the class teacher will carry out an analysis of the pupil's needs (baselining). The views of the pupil and their parents/carers will be taken into account. We may also seek advice from external support services.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly to help make sure that the support in place is matched to the pupil's need. For many pupils, the most reliable way to identify needs is to observe the way they respond to an intervention.

2. Plan

In consultation with the parents/carers and the pupil, the teacher and the SENCO will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review.

All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of the pupil's needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are needed. This information will be recorded on our positive behaviour support plan (PBSP) and Evidence for learning (EFL) and will be made accessible to staff.

Parents/carers will be fully aware of the planned support and interventions.

3. Do

The pupil's class teacher retains overall responsibility for their progress.

Where the plan involves 1-to-1 teaching away from the main class, they still retain responsibility for the pupil. They will work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.

The SENCO will support the teacher in further assessing the pupil's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on how to implement support effectively.

4. Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

We evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. This evaluation will be based on:

- The views of the parents/carers and pupils
- The level of progress the pupil has made towards their outcomes
- The views of teaching staff who work with the pupil

The teacher and the SENCO will revise the outcomes and support in light of the pupil's progress and development, and in consultation with the pupil and their parents/carers.

8.4 Levels of support

School-based SEN provision

Pupils receiving SEN provision will be placed on the school's SEND register. These pupils have needs that can be met by the school through the graduated approach. Where the pupil's needs cannot be adequately met with in-house expertise, staff will consider involving an external specialist as soon as possible. .

Education, health and care (EHC) plan

All pupils have an EHC plan. The plan is a legal document that describes the needs of the pupil, the provision that will be put in place, and the outcomes sought.

8.5 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- Tracking pupils' progress and having progress meeting with the assessment lead
- Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support
- Using pupil questionnaires
- Monitoring by the SENCO and assessment lead
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans
- Getting feedback from parents/carers through questionnaires and parents meetings.

9. Attendance

Many pupils with SEND face complex barriers to attendance. Their right to an education is the same as any other pupil and therefore the attendance ambition for these pupils is the same as it is for any other pupil. However, they may need additional support.

Our approach to supporting pupils who are absent from school due to their SEND is set out in our attendance policy.

10. Safeguarding

We recognise that pupils with SEND can face additional safeguarding challenges. Children with disabilities are more likely to be abused than their peers, and additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse, exploitation and neglect in this group.

For more details of the pastoral support we offer pupils with SEND, and the support we provide to help pupils overcome any communication barriers they face, see our safeguarding/child protection policy.

11. Expertise and training of staff

Training will regularly be provided to teaching and support staff. The senior leadership team will continuously monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development. Staff are trained in a range of approaches including the 'TEACCH' approach, RWI phonics program, MAKATON speech and language programs and occupational therapy programs epilepsy, asthma, anaphylaxis and any other medical training required. 'Smartlog' health and safety training and safeguarding training.

12. Links with external professional agencies

The school recognises that it won't be able to meet all the needs of every pupil. Whenever necessary, the school will work with external support services such as:

- Speech and language therapists

- Specialist teachers or support services
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- General practitioners or paediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Education welfare officers
- Social services
- Positive support group

13. Admission and accessibility arrangements

13.1 Admission arrangements

School admissions are managed by the SEN team at Nottingham City

Nethergate Admissions policy [download.asp](#)

13.2 Accessibility arrangements

- The school work closely with external services to ensure pupils have the equipment and resources they need.
- The school's accessibility plan can be found on the website

14. Complaints about SEND provision

Where parents/carers have concerns about our school's SEND provision, they should first raise their concerns informally with the class teacher or SENCO, or principal. We will try to resolve the complaint informally in the first instance. If this does not resolve their concerns, parents are welcome to submit their complaint formally in writing.

Formal complaints about SEND provision in our school should be made to the principal in the first instance. They will be handled in line with the school's complaints policy

If the parent or carer is not satisfied with the school's response, they can escalate the complaint. In some circumstances, this right also applies to the pupil themselves.

Complaints policy [Greenwood Academies Trust - Policies](#)

To find out about disagreement resolution and mediation services in our local area, please see: [Appeals and Mediation - Ask Us Nottinghamshire](#) You can request mediation by contacting **Ask Us Nottinghamshire**

57 Maid Marian Way
Nottingham
NG1 6GE

E-mail

enquiries@askusnotts.org.uk

Helpline

0800 121 7772

15. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

15.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND policy. We will do this by evaluating whether or not we are meeting our objectives set out in section 1.

We will evaluate how effective our SEND provision is with regards to:

- All staff's awareness of pupils with SEND at the start of the autumn term
- Pupils' progress and attainment
- Whether pupils with SEND feel safe, valued and included in the school community
- Comments and feedback from pupils and their parents/carers

15.2 Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by the SENCO **every year**. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

It will be approved by the SLT.

16. Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to the following

- SEN information report
- The local offer [SEND Local Offer - Early Health Notification | Ask Lion - Nottingham City Directory](#)
- Accessibility plan
- Behaviour policy [Nethergate Academy - Behaviour and Attendance](#)
- Equality information and objectives
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy [Medical Support for Pupils](#)
- Attendance policy
- Safeguarding / child protection policy [B6947C0344C54D82F14A2DAE05F24946.pdf](#)
- Complaints policy [Complaints Procedure](#)