



# AVANTI SCHOOLS TRUST

## **Special Needs Education and Learning Differences and Disabilities Policy**

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# Special Needs Education and Learning Differences and Disabilities Policy

## Context

The school operates a unique approach towards the strategic development of supporting our vulnerable learners, recognising that all students have a right to access a stimulating and engaging curriculum, which is not only needs led but also flexible in its approaches.

Our ethos and culture encourages student independence at all levels and all school policies and procedures support this approach. We adopt a proactive style in our systems of management, recognising and responding to the needs of all individuals and adopting a more personalised and holistic approach towards the development of the curriculum and the tracking of individual pupil progress.

This SEN/LDD policy details how the School will ensure that the necessary provision is made for any student who has special educational needs and that those needs will be made known to all who are likely to teach them. The school will take action to ensure that staff are able to identify and provide for learners who have special educational needs. We will ensure access to a full range of school activities, so far as is reasonably practical and compatible with the efficient education and safety of the pupils/students.

The school will have regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice when carrying out its duties toward students with special educational needs and will ensure that parents are notified if SEN/LDD provision is considered necessary for their child. The school recognises that active partnership with parents is vital in enabling children and young people with SEN/LDD to achieve their potential. We recognise that parents have a far greater understanding of their child's needs and the most appropriate strategies for supporting them, therefore, the School will work in close partnership with parents/carers to achieve the best outcomes for all students.

The School also recognises that children and young people with special educational needs often have a unique knowledge of their own needs and they will be encouraged to participate in all the decision-making processes, contributing as fully as possible to the assessment of their needs, including the review of any transition processes.

## The aims of the SEN/LDD Policy

To raise achievement by ensuring that students with SEN/LDD enjoy their education and achieve their full potential;

- To guarantee full inclusion for SEN/LDD students by ensuring they can access a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum, in order to ensure that they fulfil their potential and enhance their self-esteem and self-worth;
- To enable SEN/LDD students to access extra-curricular activities in order for them to gain a growing sense of their place within the community;

- To offer appropriate forms of support by the most effective use of staffing and resources;
- To ensure that, in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act (2001), all students, regardless of disability, have the right to equal educational opportunities;
- To ensure that SEN/LDD students feel safe, valued and respected in the School.

## Objectives

We support the aims of the policy by:

- Identifying and assessing students with SEN/LDD through liaison with other schools and internal assessment;
- Involving parents and staff in the identification, assessment and delivery of Special Educational Needs (SEN/LDD) and promoting liaison between all agencies concerned;
- Supporting staff in meeting the needs of students with SEN/LDD via on-going professional development opportunities;
- Devising a structure for setting, implementing, monitoring and reviewing Classroom Support Plans (CSPs) and Individual/Group Educational Plans (IEPs);
- Inclusion and pastoral team monitoring students as they enter the school through home visits, information from families and schools and any third party agencies, as appropriate;
- The close tracking and monitoring of students;
- The inclusion team offering advice and training opportunities to all staff, including tutors and mentors, on employing differentiated teaching methods and resources so that they can make appropriate provision for pupils and students with SEN/LDD;
- The inclusion team ensuring that our pupils and students' Special Educational Needs are known to other schools to which they may transfer;
- Ensuring that safety is addressed when allocating resources, particularly in the science, design and technology, food technology and textiles areas, art and PE;
- Encouraging students to care for themselves and others and to take into account the demands of changing environments;
- Inclusion and pastoral teams identifying underachievement related to learning needs or behaviour and implementing appropriate intervention strategies.

## Definition of Special Educational Needs

Students have special educational needs if they have a **learning difficulty** that calls for **special educational provision** to be made for them.

Students have a **learning difficulty** if they:

- have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age;

- have a disability that prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in schools within the area of the local education authority.

We will place students on the SEN/LDD register – under the care and guidance of class teachers, if they satisfy the schools criteria. Additional intervention may be in the form of specialist mentoring; additional teaching time; or other forms of intervention that will allow students to improve their knowledge, skills and understanding that could not be achieved through normal teaching time.

Students will not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught. (Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2001).

### Leadership and Management

The roles and responsibilities of school personnel with regard to special educational needs are given below. They are in accordance with Code of Practice guidelines and School job descriptions.

### Roles & Responsibilities

#### Leadership Team

- The Principal and Business/Finance Manager oversee the allocation of funding provision for SEN/LDD staff and TA's through the school's budget, from the prescribed funding streams;
- The Principal will set targets for the Inclusion Manager in accordance with the Appraisal Policy;
- Monitor and maintain the quality of provision;
- Update, inform and engage fully with the link SEN School Stakeholder Committee member on strategic and funding matters related to SEN/LDD.

#### Inclusion Manager

- To oversee the day to day running of the school's Inclusion Department;
- To make efficient use of resources for students with SEN/LDD;
- To make staffing arrangements for SEN/LDD staff and TAs with reference to the devolved budget;
- To disseminate SEN/LDD information to staff;
- To assess and coordinate provision for children with SEN/LDD, especially through School Action, School Action Plus and Statements of Special Educational Need;
- To liaise with fellow staff;
- To contribute to INSET for colleagues;
- To line manage Teaching Assistants (Support & Delivery of Learning);
- To monitor and record data relating to students with SEN/LDD;
- To liaise with other schools;

- To liaise with parents of children with SEN/LD;
- To liaise with a range of external agencies;
- To coordinate and manage systems of support;
- To provide, if staffing allows, students with an environment in which they can feel safe at break and lunchtimes;
- To maintain a Dyslexia Friendly Status for the school;
- To produce the SEN/LDD register;
- To maintain pupil/student progress through analysis of data;
- To co-ordinate the intervention for SEN/LDD students who have been identified as underperforming;
- Liaising with the Senior team, and provide opportunities for the Link SSC Member to visit the department in order to gain and develop a deep understanding of the development and issues related to SEN/LDD students.

### SEN/LDD teaching staff

- To provide expertise in the education of pupils and students with learning difficulties;
- To provide expertise in the education of students with emotional and behavioural difficulties;
- To provide expertise in the education of students with SEN/LDD;
- To provide care and expertise for students with physical disabilities;
- To liaise with subject staff, as necessary, to ensure that they are fully informed as to the special educational needs of any students in their charge;
- To devise strategies and identify appropriate methods of access to the curriculum;
- To plan and deliver individualised programmes.

### Teachers

- To differentiate work by devising strategies and identifying appropriate methods of access to the curriculum for all students;
- To work with students and provide help on a daily basis;
- To plan, deliver and monitor personalised programmes for students with SEN/LDD who are on the School's register of SEN/LDD or who have a CSP;
- To maintain, in line with school policy, thorough records of intervention and records of poor student progress that occurs because of learning, behaviour, emotional or physical special educational need;
- To read and implement classroom support plans for students with SEN/LDD;
- To plan and integrate additional support in lessons from teachers and teaching assistants.

### Teaching Assistants

- To undertake duties as defined by their job description and the Inclusion Manager in a flexible manner, according to the changing needs of the school and individual students.

## Avanti Schools Trust

- To receive regular reviews and reports of the effectiveness of the School's work with students who have special educational needs;
- To ensure that any reviews and changes to SEN/LDD Policy are included in reports to the Board;
- To ensure that AST monitors the effectiveness of the School's /LDD provision and that there is a named member of the Central Team to provide a link between the School and governing body.
- To review this Policy on a yearly basis, or when legislative guidance is reviewed.