



West Hill School

Aiming High Since 1927

SEND Report 2023

Item	Author/Owner	Date Written	Approved by	Date Approved
1	M O'Dowd	20/11/23	Board of Trustees	29/11/23



Key Changes

Changes is staffing structure reflected in the policy.



Changes made to reflect new staffing changes that have taken place in school

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West Hill School SEND Information Report September 2023

Our Philosophy for Inclusion

All children are unique every individual student has their own unique individual skills, talents and abilities. At West Hill School we have a responsibility to encourage all our students to “Aim High”, regardless of their starting points, we ensure every student has the appropriate teaching and learning experience, along with nurturing support to enable them to reach their full potential.

We believe that:

- All our students are entitled to an education that is relevant and challenging, designed to enable each individual student to participate fully in society and to contribute to and benefit from it.
- All teachers at West Hill School are responsible for the effective delivery of a broad, balanced, relevant, engaging and differentiated curriculum.
- Those students experiencing difficulties which may affect their learning and may require additional support are added to the SEND register. Where they are monitored and assessed regularly, if further interventions are required a referral to outside agencies will be made with the consent of the parents; this makes a fluid SEND register with regular monitoring and assessment for all students essential.
- To maximise potential, education should be an equal partnership between parents, students and staff with the involvement of other agencies when necessary.

With regard to these beliefs, the following document outlines the provision the school endeavours to achieve.

Management of SEND

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo) is Mr O’Dowd and he has the responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the SEND policy. The Associate Assistant SENDCo (AASENDCo) is Mrs J. Smith.

The SEND Trustee is Mrs G. Parkes.

The SENDCo and AASENDCo:

- Oversee the running of the provision for students with SEND.
- Ensure that Learning Support Assistants are effectively deployed within lessons to support students with SEND.
- Maintain the SEND register and the required documentation.
- Ensure records on all SEND students are kept securely, regularly monitored and reviewed.
- Liaise with parents, teachers and external agencies.



- Ensure annual reviews for students in receipt of EHCPs are completed. In accordance with the SEND Code of Practice.
- Provide regular training and information sharing for all teaching staff.
- Regularly review and monitor SEND provision within the school and oversee intervention as appropriate.
- Initiate and take part in formal meetings with external agencies regarding students requiring further assessments.
- Ensure standardised screening tests are provided for students demonstrating difficulties.
- Arrange external assessments for Access Arrangements and liaise with the examinations officer.
- Hold regular information sharing meetings with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team.

The Tameside local offer is available here:

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/localoffer>

Admission Arrangements

The school adheres to the admissions policy of Tameside LA and therefore there is no special provision under admission arrangements for limiting or promoting access for students with SEND.

SEND Specialisms

The school accommodates provision for students experiencing the following difficulties:

- Students who are neurodiverse (e.g., ASD, ADHD, ADD, ODD)
- Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)
- Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia.
- Visual impairment.
- Hearing impairment.
- Language and communication difficulties (SALT).
- Social, emotional and/or mental health difficulties (SEMH).
- Medical problems.
- Physical disabilities.

Resources we have available in school

The biggest resource for our regular SEND provision at West Hill are our members of staff who work with our students on our SEND register who maybe experiencing emotional or behavioural difficulties. The staffing is detailed as:



- SENDCo
- AASENDCo
- Emotional Health Officer
- Six Learning Support Assistants (LSAs)
 - Three Level 3 LSAs (two of which are EKLAN trained)
 - Three Level 2 LSAs
- Two Behaviour Mentors

The SEND budget is met through the whole school budget and additional top up funding from the local authority for students with an EHCP.

Specialist resources in the department include:

- Standardised tests; specific networked SEND programmes such Lexonik and Rapid Reading Plus.
- Diagnostic testing LASS - (identification of dyslexic traits)
- On-going purchase of resources around motor skills, SPLD and SLCN.
- Differentiated curriculum costs (outlined in Curriculum later in the document).
- Educational Psychologist assessments.
- Outside agency provision such as CLASS, SALT, Groundworks, Tameside Active and college placements.

Students with SEND are equally represented in co-curricular activities including residential trips. If necessary, an additional risk assessment may take place to ensure the safety of the students involved and additional staff deployed if required. We are fully compliant with the terms of the Equality Act 2010.

How we approach SEND teaching

The curriculum is delivered to all students in mixed attainment mainstream classes using quality first teaching, and following the – ‘all teachers are teachers of SEND’, work is adapted to meet the needs of students requiring additional support, additional support is provided by LSAs in some classes where a need has been identified. Students on the SEND register may require personalised/specific resources to enable them to fully engage and participate within the classrooms. These students will have a SEND learning plan created for them the plans are monitored and adapted regularly, if necessary, by the SENDCo.

How we adapt the curriculum and learning environment for students with SEND

Students are taught in mixed attainment groups, subject teachers utilise the students SEND learning plan to adapt their lessons accordingly, so that the students are able to access the curriculum. Students with specific needs are provided with tailored resources as appropriate; we adapt text-based resources to suit the individual needs of students with dyslexia, we have a full range of coloured overlays for them to use to support their reading needs. Laptops are available within departments for students to use in lessons where a need has been identified.



What training and expertise do our staff have?

SEND specific training for all Learning Support Assistants takes place at designated sessions throughout the year.

How do we identify, assess and review our SEND students?

West Hill School follows the protocols stipulated within the SEND Code of Practice (2014) and Tameside's "Matching Provision to Need" document. The gathering of information to identify SEND may be via:

- Year 6 information from feeder schools.
- Baseline assessments in Year 7.
- Referral from class teachers.
- Observations from Learning Support Assistants.
- Concerns from parents.
- Performance against expected level of progress within the National Curriculum level descriptions.
- Standardised screening and assessments.

The school has a rigorous assessment programme for all students so it is deemed unnecessary to impose further generic testing on students on the SEND register. However, regular testing and monitoring takes place where specific areas of study are being undertaken, such as standardised reading or spelling ages for students on multisensory programmes of study for those specific reasons. All students on our SEND register have a personalised Learning Plan, unique to them and detailing their specific needs and teaching strategies to maximise their progress. These are available to all staff on their SIMs profile.

How do we assess and review students' progress towards outcomes?

The SENDCo and the AASENDCo review the progress of SEND students on a regular basis. This identifies any concerns or lack of progress early, we can immediately work with the student and relevant subject teacher(s) and put a plan in place to support the student and teacher. We fully involve parents and if concerns continue, they are invited in for a meeting to discuss the situation and contribute to the plan to improve progress.

How we keep our records?

Relevant information on our SEND students is shared with all staff via the individual learning plan, this is attached into linked documents in SIMs. This ensures the most recent student profile or relevant supporting information is immediately available to all teaching staff, including cover teachers.



How do we ensure all our students are included in all aspects of school life?

With exception to those students attending outside/alternative provisions, all students are encouraged to learn in the mainstream classroom environment with in-class LSA support if needed. There are occasions where small group or 1:1 work is necessary, or assessment needs to take place. The following rooms accommodate these situations and more;

Learning Support Unit. Students undertake short term withdrawal sessions in here if they need support in a particular subject area to catch up or need to concentrate on a specific area of their curriculum. Students have 1:1 or small group intervention sessions in here.

Emotional Support Unit (SU38). Whilst there is a withdrawal room for students who are on the disciplinary ladder, there is also an emotional/behaviour support room (ESU38) which promotes positive and engaging behaviour and gives an opportunity for small group and 1:1 work to take place around forging positive relationships with peers and staff and work around anger management.

This Emotional Support Unit room gives an opportunity for those students who may be on the Autistic Spectrum, have communication difficulties or be vulnerable to engage and socialise in a positively managed and structured environment. Those students having access to this room can do so before school, breaks and lunch times.

How are our parents and students involved in the review process?

All parents of students on the SEND register are invited to make an appointment with the SENDCo at Parents' Evening. Students with SEND will be monitored through the weekly inclusion meeting by the SENDCo and AASENDCo. Regular progress assessments and data analysis are taken throughout the year of all students and the progress of groups of SEND students are disseminated and analysed separately by the SENDCo.

Year 9 and Year 11 Statutory EHCP reviews include West Hill's Careers Officer and Year 10 and 11 students also receive additional support from the Careers Officer whilst making post-16 choices. Student Progress reviews are held throughout the school year, but parents are welcome to come and discuss their child's progress with the SENDCo or AASENDCo at any time with an agreed appointment.

At West Hill we believe in a strong partnership between school, our students, parents and carers. With this in mind we always endeavour to:

- Work together to support those students with SEND. We understand and appreciate the pressures a parent may be under because of their child's needs.
- Inform parents/carers as soon as we identify your son as having SEND.
- Acknowledge and draw on parents'/carers' knowledge and expertise in relation to their son and will be involved in the education planning process.
- Focus on the student's strengths, as well as areas of additional need.



- Ensure parents understand procedures, are aware of how to access support in preparing contributions, and where possible are given documents to be discussed before meetings.
- Respect the validity of differing perspectives and seek constructive ways of reconciling differing viewpoints.
- Recognise the need for flexibility in the timing and structure of meetings.
- Respect the differing needs parents/carers themselves may have such as disability, or communication and linguistic barriers.
- Encourage an active partnership with parents/carers and will hold informal meetings and workshops where staff and parents can meet and share expertise and concerns.
- Speak to and meet parents at the earliest mutually convenient time whenever possible.
- Students are fully involved in the review process and they have regular progress meetings with mentors to ensure they are aware of what their targets are and how best to meet them.
- Invite students to attend reviews with staff and their parents/carers.

How do we involve other agencies to ensure our students social and emotional needs are met?

West Hill School works closely with other agencies and has an excellent reputation for providing close partnerships and information sharing with agencies supporting our most vulnerable students.

We have an ever-changing net-work of partnership agencies as we seek to support our students in an area where sadly some provisions have disappeared, but new charitable organisations are being introduced.

The following services/agencies are some of those involved with West Hill School:

- Educational Psychology
- Healthy Young Minds (HYM)
- Speech and Language Therapy Team
- Occupational Therapy
- Looked After Children Team (Virtual School)
- Visual Impairment Team
- Hearing Impairment Team
- LA Learning Support Team
- Connexions
- School Nurse Service
- Child and Family Support Teams



- Tameside Educational Psychology Service
- Education Welfare Officer
- Groundworks and Big Local
- Children's Social Care
- Works 4 U

How are our SEND students supported pastorally?

At West Hill School we employ a psychologist, Emotional Health Officer, who counsellor who is based in school for 3 days per week. We have an Emotional and Behaviour Intervention Manager who is responsible for the needs of any vulnerable students, along with her responsibilities to support students to develop their social skills and ensuring emotional support in their times of need. We have a designated area for ASD students who may need more structure at non-structured times with Lego, chess, board games and quiet areas to alleviate any anxiety they may feel.

We also support students through our pastoral structure with Heads of Year, Form teachers and designated LSAs leading support on a daily basis.

How are our SEND students supported through transition?

All West Hill students follow a very comprehensive transition programme from Year 6 into 7 but we appreciate that for students with SEND there may be additional concerns from both themselves and/or parents/carers. Families with students identified by primary schools to need additional support will be contacted by a member of the SEND team, to arrange additional visits to school prior to the summer term to meet key members of staff, see timetables or experience the dinner hall; anything that will help to ease the uncertainty of the next step.

The summer school held in August helps to ease the pressure of the long waiting time and period of uncertainty for some of our most vulnerable learners.

Transition to Post 16 is assisted by our Careers officer, Mrs Appleby, in addition to our designated Connexions advisor. Mrs Appleby attends EHCP reviews in Years 9, and 11 and identifies and prioritises students on the SEND register for additional support with their post-16 choices.

What measures do we take to prevent bullying?

Our anti bullying policy, which is followed for all students, along with our other policies can be found by clicking the link below:

www.westhillschool.co.uk/parents



How do we evaluate our SEND provision?

- Weekly discussion opportunity with Headteacher.
- Open dialogue with SEND Trustee
- Progress measured through usual school monitoring procedures with SEND cohort disseminated and given to SENDCo for action.
- Standardised test scores for students on SEND specific areas of study.
- Regular scrutiny of SEND register between SENDCo and Associate Assistant SENDCo
- Student Profiles
- Professionals' Reports
- Reviews

What to do if you have a query or complaint?

Parents and partners of the school are welcome to query decisions made by the school in the first instance with the SENDCo or Headteacher. Any formal complaints should be made in writing as per the whole school Complaints Policy.

Full details of Tameside SEND policies can be found at:

www.tameside.gov.uk/sen