



SHERFIELD
SCHOOL

Special Educational Needs Policy

This policy applies to all pupils in the school, including in the EYFS

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Owner of Policy	Kerry Walsh, Director of Student Services (SENCO)
Head of School	Caroline Taylor

Kerry Walsh – Director of Student Services (SENCo)

Every teacher is a teacher of every child or young person, including those with SEN.

School Setting

Sherfield School is a co-educational independent school for pupils of the age of 3 months to 18 years. Some of the students are boarders.

School beliefs

Sherfield School believes that all pupils are entitled to high quality, well-planned and well-organised teaching, which will enable them to participate in a broad and balanced curriculum and to be part of the social life of the school.

Checked by

Head: Ms Caroline Taylor

Deputy Head: Mr Tony Wilde

Date: October 2025

Next Review: September 2026

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Special Educational Needs Policy

Compliance

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (2015) and has been written with reference to the following statutory guidance:

- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013
- SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (2015)
- Schools SEN Information Report Regulations (2014)
- Statutory Guidance on Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions April 2014
- The National Curriculum in England Key Stage 1 and 2 framework document Sept 2013
- Teachers Standards 2012

and the following internal documents: -

- Safeguarding Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Educational Visits Policy
- Admissions Policy

The Equality Act (2010) sets out the legal obligations that schools and early years providers have towards disabled children. In line with this act, we are committed to not directly or indirectly discriminate against, harass or victimise disabled children. We will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled children are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with peers.

We are aware of the non-statutory documents Mental health and behaviour in schools (March 2015) and Counselling in schools: a blueprint for the future (March 2015) and are considering guidance found in these in order to support children who suffer from, or are at risk of developing mental health problems.

Special Educational Provision

The Equality Act 2010 retains the previous definition of disability:

‘A physical or mental impairment which has substantial and long term adverse impact on a person’s ability to carry out normal everyday activities’.

This has some overlap with the definition of ‘special educational needs’ in the Children and Families Act 2014 (which includes pupils with significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of his/her age or a disability which means that a pupil cannot make full use of the general educational facilities provided for pupils of their age in mainstream state schools), but not all pupils are disabled by their SEN and vice versa.

At Sherfield School, we endeavour to secure special educational provision for pupils for whom this is required, that is *‘additional to and different from’* that provided within the differentiated curriculum to better respond to the four areas of need identified in the new Code of Practice:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, mental and emotional health
- Sensory/physical

(New Code of Practice September 2014) (See Appendices for definitions)

At Sherfield School, we believe that a pupil has special educational needs if:

- They have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made
- A learning difficulty or disability is a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age

Sherfield School recognises that high achieving children are recognised as having a 'special educational need' and provision will be made to meet these needs.

Aims and Objectives

At Sherfield School, we aim:

- To identify and provide for pupils who have SEN and additional needs
- To work within the guidance provided in the SEND Code of Practice, 2014
- To operate a "whole pupil, whole school" approach to the management and provision of support for special educational needs
- To provide a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)
- To provide support and advice for all staff working with special educational needs pupils
- To create an environment that meets the special educational needs of each child to engage in activities alongside pupils who do not have SEN
- To request, monitor and respond to parents/carers and pupils' views in order to evidence high levels of confidence and partnership
- To make clear the expectations of all partners in the process
- To ensure a high level of staff expertise to meet pupil needs through well-targeted continuing professional development
- To ensure support for pupils with medical conditions and full inclusion in all school activities by ensuring consultation with health and social care professionals
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of all staff in providing for children's special educational needs through reasonable adjustments to enable all children to have full access to all elements of the school curriculum
- To work in cooperation and productive partnerships with the Local Education Authority and other outside agencies to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of all vulnerable learners

Whole School Graduated Approach to SEN Support

Sherfield School takes a whole school approach to the provision for pupils with SEN through assessing, planning, delivering, reviewing and recording of information, to ensure that all children achieve their potential.

1. Identification of Needs

At Sherfield School, the identification of pupils with additional needs is done following two different pathways.

- 1.1 Through the Admissions process: parents are expected to declare any and all inclusion needs that their child may have during the application process. As Sherfield School is a non-selective school, admission assessments serve more as placement and support assessments than actual admissions tests. Where the school is able to meet the needs of a pupil, a place would be offered.
- 1.2 When a pupil is already on the roll, it is the role of the class or subject teacher to identify any pupil who may present with additional needs and ensure that a referral is made to Student Services.

'Slow progress and low attainment do not necessarily mean the child has SEN. The class teacher working with the SENCo should assess whether the child has SEN'.

SEN COD 0-25(2014).

Before identifying a child as needing SEN support the class or subject teacher with the SENCo support will establish a clear analysis of the pupils needs.

2. Analysis of Needs

Ongoing processes of **formative, summative and diagnostic assessment** are an integral part of the teaching and learning process at Sherfield School, providing information useful to the pupil, the teacher and the parents. This is outlined in the school's Assessment Policy, which aims to gain a full picture of each pupil's learning profile against their potential on an ongoing basis. The process of ongoing assessment demonstrates what has been learned, identifies successes and gaps in learning, and identifies what the next learning stage should be. It also provides valuable information about how the curriculum could be suitably adapted and which methodologies should be adopted to meet individual needs. Where current rates of progress for individual pupils are inadequate (see appendices for definition), arrangements for appropriate screening and support will be made through the school's graduated approach to SEN.

Raising a Concern – Procedure – following the Inclusion Referral Flowchart

After consultation with the parents and the SENCo, following the Inclusion Referral Flowchart.

- **Assess:** The class or subject teacher, working with the SENCo, will carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs
- **Plan:** In consultation with the parents and pupil, agree the adjustments, interventions and support to be put in place as well as the expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, along with a review date.
- **Do:** The class or subject teacher remains responsible for working with the pupil. The SENCo will support the main class/subject teacher in the further assessment of the pupil's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem-solving and advising on the implementation of support
- **Review:** The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress is reviewed; the impact and quality of the support and interventions are evaluated, along with the views of the pupil and their parents; the support is revised in light of the pupil's progress and development in consultation with the pupil and parents.

The above process will assist the SENCo in determining whether a child should be entered on the SEN Register.

Identifying behaviour as a need is not an acceptable way of describing SEN. Any concerns relating to a pupil's behaviour will be described as an underlying response to a need which we will be able to recognise and identify clearly. (See Anti-bullying Policy).

Storage and Managing Information

The school will continue to use the internal systems including iSAMS to record the steps taken to meet the needs of individual pupils. The SENCo is responsible for ensuring that electronic records are kept and available when needed. These are available to share with parents on a termly basis. If hard copies are created these are stored in a locked cupboard.

Individual Support Plans are completed for pupils whose difficulties affect their day-to-day performance in the classroom. The aim of these is to target specific areas of learning or behaviour.

Targets should be in addition to the normal learning targets and should be:

- CSMART – challenging; specific; measurable; achievable; realistic; time-bound.
- Only three or four in number
- Relate to the areas of need of the child: communication, English, Maths, behaviour, and social skills.

All staff members have access to individual information via the school system. Electronic copies of completed Individual Support Plans are collated by the SENCo.

SEN Register and Educational Reports

The SEN register is managed by the SENCo and is available for reference on the shared drive, as well as on iSAMS.

Reports written by other professionals, are kept in the locket cabinet in the office but these are moving to being stored electronically on the Inclusion Drive – which has restricted access.

The SENCo will ensure that all staff are familiar with the SEN Register and the identified strategies for learning in relation to the pupils they teach.

The Role of The SENCo (Director of Student Services) at Sherfield School

Responsibilities include:

- Compiling and managing the SEN Register
- Overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEN policy.
- Co-ordinating provision for pupils with SEN (including those with an EHCPs as detailed in the section below)
- Overseeing the records of all pupils with SEN
- Developing effective ways of overcoming barriers to learning
- Ensuring that IEPs are produced, completed and reviewed each term
- Reading / summarising / disseminating information regarding educational reports
- Liaising with teaching staff, as well as the named co-ordinator for Early Years
- Liaising with secondary educational establishments to discuss the transition
- Advising / liaising / managing the deployment of LSAs
- Screening visiting pupils, reviewing the identification procedure, monitoring progress and record-keeping
- Organising/attending review meetings
- Liaising with external agencies
- Managing and developing the effective use of the school's resources
- Identifying, ordering and utilising the resources available from other agencies
- Contributing to the development of curriculum policies to ensure that the provision for pupils with SEN is considered
- Supporting and advising teachers in planning appropriate schemes of work
- Analysing data, monitoring progress and providing additional support to SEN pupils working in class
- Continuing C.P.D.
- Liaising, advising and supporting parents of pupils with SEN.
- In consultation with the SLT, review the quality of teaching, including contributing to and supporting teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support pupils with SEN through appropriate training.

Training and Resources

In order to maintain and develop the quality of teaching and provision to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils, all staff are encouraged to undertake training and development.

All teachers and support staff undertake induction on taking up a post and this includes a meeting with the SENCo to explain the systems and structures in place around the school's provision and practice and to discuss the needs of individual pupils.

The school's SENCo regularly attends SENCo network meetings in order to keep up to date with local and national updates in SEND.

Support Services

Support Services are welcomed to support a child with SEN if the child:

- continues to make little or no progress in specific areas over a long period
- continues working at national curriculum levels substantially below that expected of children of a similar age/
- continues to have difficulty in developing literacy and mathematical skills
- has emotional or behavioural difficulties which regularly and substantially interfere with the child's own learning or that of the class group.
- has sensory or physical needs and requires additional specialist equipment or regular advice or visits by a specialist service
- has on-going communication or interaction difficulties that impede the development of social relationships and cause substantial barriers to learning
- despite having received the intervention, the child continues to fall behind the level of the peer group

Valuing Parents

Sherfield School welcomes parental involvement and seeks to gain as much information as possible about the child from the parents/carers; all staff read any paperwork submitted. All discussions are dealt with confidentially and in a sensitive manner. In partnership with parents, pupils with special educational needs will be encouraged to contribute to the assessment of their needs, the review and the transition process.

At all stages of the SEN process, the school keeps parents fully informed and involved at all stages. We encourage parents to make an active contribution to their pupils' education and hold regular meetings to share progress, in addition to regular parent/pupil achievement meetings.

A record is kept of any communication with parents, and all notes and action plans arising from these meetings are kept in a secure place in order to maintain confidentiality.

Arrangements for learning support and SEN pupils changing schools or leaving school

In consultation with parents, the SENCO will notify the receiving school about a pupil's learning support or SEND records, including the provision that has been made and targets met.

Considering the Pupil's Views and Opinions

At Sherfield School, the pupils' views will be sought whenever possible by asking, listening and observing the pupil's reaction to activities and resources. A judgement is made and discussed with colleagues and parents. Though we accept that a pupil's perceptions and experiences can be invaluable, as a school, we recognise that this may not always be easy and may need to consult parents and other colleagues for further information.

Provision for pupils with EHCPs

In accordance with the school's admissions policy, Sherfield School admits children who will benefit from the education offered and who will contribute to and benefit from the ethos and activities of our school community. In respect of an application for a place for a pupil with SEND, including a pupil with an EHCP, the school will have regard to these criteria and also to whether, given its limited facilities for pupils with SEND, the school can make reasonable adjustments to cater adequately for such a pupil. Similarly, the school will not refuse admission for a child with SEND on the grounds that he or she does not have an EHCP but will make a judgement with regard to the criteria above and whether appropriate reasonable adjustments can be made. This may include supporting parents in the application for a statutory assessment for an EHCP.

The school acknowledges its responsibility, within the bounds of reasonable adjustment, to identify, assess and make appropriate provision for children with SEND, whether or not they have an EHCP. Accordingly, where assessment determines that a pupil's individual needs may be best served by a statutory assessment for an EHCP, the SENCO will inform parents and will assist them in the necessary preparations and

application for such an assessment. The school will meet its duty to respond to any request from the local authority for information relating to a statutory assessment within three weeks of receipt.

Where a pupil at the school has an EHCP, the school will ensure:

- Co-operate with the local authority in undertaking the annual review of the plan, including the presentation of relevant information on the evaluation of learning and progress. Any advice and information gathered will be sent to all those invited to an annual review meeting at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The school will prepare and send a report of the meeting to everyone invited within two weeks of the meeting and will enable the local authority to undertake a review of a pupil's EHCP at least seven months before transfer to another phase of education.
- Coordinate with the SENCO on the specific provision made to support individual children who have EHCP, together with monitoring and reviewing its efficacy.
- Facilitation by the SENCO of additional staff training as required to meet the terms of the plan
- Provision of information by the SENCO to ensure that all those teaching or working with a child named in an EHC plan, are aware of the pupil's needs and the arrangements in place in to meet them.
- Co-operation, as appropriate, with health and social care providers to meet the terms of the plan.
- Preparation, where a pupil wholly or partly funded by a local authority is registered at the school, of an annual account of income received and expenditure incurred by the school in respect of that pupil for the local authority and, on request, the Secretary of State.

Through its evaluation procedures, the school will seek to identify improvements in outcomes. This will include, as appropriate, consultation with pupils and their parents, taking into account:

- Prevention.
- Early identification/recognition.
- How pupils and their families will be able to access services.
- How will transitions between life stages and settings be managed, from early years to primary education?
- How provision and support services will enable pupils to prepare for their future adult life.

Confidentiality

The school will not disclose any EHC plan without the consent of the pupil's parents, with the exception of disclosure:

- To the SEN and Disability Tribunal when parents appeal and to the Secretary of State if a complaint is made under the Education Act 1996.
- On the order of any court for the purpose of any criminal proceedings.
- For the purposes of investigations of maladministration under the Local Government Act 1974.
- To enable any authority to perform duties arising from the Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986 or from the Children Act relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- To ISI or Ofsted inspection teams as part of their inspections of schools and local authorities.
- To any person in connection with the pupil's application for disabled students' allowance in advance of taking up a place in higher education. (NB: This bullet point is for secondary education only)
- To the Head (or equivalent position) of the institution at which the pupil is intending to start secondary/higher education.

Other Considerations

When organising trips and carrying out disciplinary procedures, the specific needs of pupils are always considered so that individual pupils can participate fully in the event. (Please see Educational Visits Policy for further details).

Disability Discrimination Act

Though we acknowledge that not all children with a disability have a special educational need, we have regard for the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) and will make **reasonable adjustments** to include all children and their families. The School has a 3-year disability access plan, as required.

Pupils with Medical Conditions

Sherfield School recognises that pupils with medical conditions are properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. This is done through the Health Zone in the school.

Admissions

Our inclusive approach is reflected in our Equal Opportunities and Admissions Policy, available on the school website.

Monitoring Progress and Evaluating Success

The SLT at Sherfield School will establish the extent to which standards (measured by CATs, NGRT, NGST, PTE, PTM and other in-school assessments) have improved across groups of pupils with identified SEN by:

- comparing baseline data with the data collected at the assessment point
- reviewing pupils' progress in relation to the targets set
- taking account of other factors that may have affected progress
- analysing the effectiveness of educational professionals and parents working in partnership
- noticing a reduction in the total number of pupils requiring SEN provision
- noting how well pupils with SEN have access to the whole curriculum of the school
- observing an increase in independence of individual pupils with SEN
- ensuring provision for each pupil is planned for, reviewed and evaluated regularly
- ensuring the most effective deployment of resources is designed to ensure the needs of all pupils are met

Accessibility, including the Physical Environment

At Sherfield School, high quality teaching using differentiation for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Details of differentiation are provided in schemes of work and termly and weekly planning. Heads of Phase and Subject Leaders monitor planning termly and provide feedback as needed.

Individual teachers respond to children's needs by contributing information, targets and progress to the Inclusion Department for pupil support plans. Or a provision map to record individual needs. Teachers use these to inform teaching by:

- Provide appropriate support for children who need help with communication, language and literacy, e.g. through grouping and use of appropriate learning materials
- planning suitable experiences to develop children's understanding through the use of all available senses
- planning for children's full participation in learning and in physical and practical activities
- helping children to manage and own their behaviour and to take part in learning effectively and safely
- helping individuals to manage their emotions, particularly trauma or stress and to take an active part in their learning
- using different learning materials or specialist equipment
- deployment of L.S.A to work with individuals or small groups of children when appropriate
- requesting support from the SENCo both in and outside the classroom
- using specific intervention materials (see appendix)

Physical Environment

Sherfield School has a commitment to providing specialist equipment should it be needed. If it is clear that a particular resource poses a threat to a pupil, these are removed.

Procedures for Resolving Complaints about SEN Provision

This follows the school complaints procedure, as published on the school's website. (See Complaints Procedure).

Bullying

At Sherfield School, all reasonable steps are taken to eliminate the risk of bullying of vulnerable learners. (See Anti-Bullying Policy).

Appendix 1

A) Broad areas of need as set out in the SEND Code of Practice 2014:

Communication and interaction

Pupils and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to and understanding what is being said to them, or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. The profile of every pupil 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.

Pupils and young people with ASD, including 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.

Cognition and learning

Support for learning difficulties may be required when pupils and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), where pupils are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum and associated difficulties with mobility and communication, to profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), where pupils 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.

Social, emotional and mental health difficulties

Pupils and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves 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 pupils and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.

Sensory and/or physical needs

Some pupils and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability, which prevents them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. These difficulties can be age-related and may fluctuate over time. Many pupils 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. Pupils and young people with MSI have a combination of vision and hearing difficulties.

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

B) Other considerations

Other considerations need to be taken into account as these may also impact on the progress and attainment of our pupils;

- Disability (the Code of Practice outlines the “reasonable adjustment “duty for all settings and schools provided under current Disability Equality legislation –these alone do not constitute SEN)
- Attendance and Punctuality
- Health and Welfare
- EAL
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant
- Being a Looked After Pupil
- Being a pupil of a Serviceman/woman

C) Adequate progress

The key test of the need for action is that current rates of progress are inadequate.

Adequate progress can be identified as that which:

- Prevents the attainment gap between the pupil and his peers from widening
- Closes the attainment gap between the pupil and his peers
- Shows an increased rate of progress than previously
- Ensures access to the full curriculum
- Demonstrates an improvement in self-help, social or personal skills
- Demonstrates improvements in the pupil's behaviour

Appendix 2

Further Advice:

Advice, information and training (extracted from Annex 2 of the SEND Code 2014) The following organisations provide advice, information and training on specific impairments:

- The Autism Education Trust for children and young people on the Autism Spectrum (www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk)
- The Communications Trust for speech, language and communication difficulties (www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk)
- The Dyslexia SpLD Trust on dyslexia and literacy difficulties (www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk)
- The National Sensory Impairment Partnership for vision impairment, hearing impairment and multi-sensory impairment (www.natsip.org.uk)
- Each of these organisations is working with funding from the Department for Education to support the reforms to the SEN system.
- MindEd (www.minded.org.uk) is an e-learning portal aimed at supporting all adults working with children and young people. It provides simple, clear guidance on children and young people's mental health, wellbeing and development.
- The SEN Gateway (www.sendgateway.org.uk) enables access to a broad range of materials and support services across the range of SEN.
- Early Support provides a range of information materials to families and professionals (www.ncb.org.uk/earlysupport).