

Special Education Needs and Disability Policy

Policy details

Academy: Co-op Academy Beckfield

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Date of next Policy Review: January 2027

**To be reviewed every 2 years and following any changes to legislation*

This policy has been written with guidance and reference to the following documents:

- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 years (June 2014)
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- Articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child
- The Equality Act 2010
- To ensure the SEND Code of Practice, the Equality Act and the guidance in Removing Barriers to Achievement are implemented effectively across the schools.

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Introduction

This policy links with the SEND Code of Practice by recognising that:

- SEND Code of Practice now covers 0-25 years
- Single school SEND categories Graduated approaches to provision
- Local Authorities will have a Local Offer and schools will contribute to that offer
- There will be Joint Commissioning roles between Education, Health and Social Care.

Co-op Academy Beckfield recognises that there is a significant overlap between children and young people with Special Educational Needs and those with Disabilities, and that many such children and young people are covered by both SEND Code of Practice and equality legislation such as the Equality Act 2010 towards individual disabled children and young people. We will make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services for disabled children and those with medical conditions, to prevent them being put at a substantial disadvantage.

Objectives

- To ensure equality of opportunity and to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against young people with special educational needs.
- To continually monitor the progress of all children, to anticipate and identify needs as they arise and to provide support as early as possible.
- To provide access to a relevant and exciting curriculum through planning and provision by Class Teachers, SENDCo, Lead Teachers and Senior Leaders.
- To make effective arrangements to support and care for our children so that their complex individual needs do not become a barrier to learning and progress.
- To enable children to move on from school with the skills they need to become successful in their lives after school, whichever pathway they follow.
- To involve parents, and young people themselves wherever possible, in planning for any decisions that inform the child's preparation for adulthood.

Definition of Special Educational Needs

For the purposes of its policy the schools adopt the legal definition provided by the 1996 Education Act:

“A child has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.”

The SEND Code of Practice states that a child has a learning difficulty if he or she;

- a) Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of young people of the same age
- b) Has a disability which either prevents or hinders the child from making use of educational facilities of a kind provided for young people of the same age in schools within the area.
- c) Under the SEN Code of Practice 2014, the categories of need were redefined and are now:

Current	Previous
Cognition and Learning	Moderate, Severe and Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties, Specific Learning Difficulties
Communication and Interaction	Autism Spectrum Condition Speech, Language and Communication Needs
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties
Sensory and/or Physical	Physical Difficulties Hearing Impaired Visually Impaired Sensory Difficulties

We believe that children may have special educational needs in some areas of their learning but that they can also be identified as gifted and talented in others.

Context

The 'Aims of the Academy', which underpin Co-op Academy Beckfield SEND Policy are:

- To enable optimal social experiences for each student by using the full facilities of the Academy for the benefit of all students;
- To operate a 'Gradient of Inclusion', yet giving equal consideration to each member of the Academy community;
- To establish a model community, recognising that all members have equal value, but with different needs and future paths.

Principles

Co-op Academy Beckfield is committed to providing an appropriate and high quality education to all the young people that we serve. We believe that all children, including those identified as having special educational needs and disabilities, have a common entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum, which enables all relevant aspects of school life to be accessible to them. We aim to provide an environment in which all individuals are respected and encouraged to reach their full potential.

The Academy is committed to ensuring success for all, in line with our Equal Opportunities policy. This means that in all work with young people we will aim to ensure that:

- Children feel safe
- Children are happy
- Children cooperate
- Children communicate
- Children engage in learning
- Children aspire to achieve
- Children show respect for others
- Children have pride in their school
- Children show an understanding of what equality means in practice.

We believe that all children should be equally valued at the Academy. We will strive to eliminate prejudice and discrimination, and to develop an environment where all young people can flourish and feel safe. We aim to engender a sense of community and belonging, and to offer new opportunities to learners who may have experienced previous barriers. This does not mean that we will treat all learners in the same way, but that we will respond to learners in ways which take account of their varied life experiences, strengths and needs. We believe that educational inclusion is about equal opportunities for all learners, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, difficulty, sexuality, disability, attainment levels and background.

We pay particular attention to the provision for and the achievement of different groups of learners;

- Children who demonstrate some independence as learners because they have some understanding of abstract concepts and can access learning through spoken word and text.
- Supported children who need a more concrete experience and often have an additional communication need.
- Children with more complex needs who rely on adult mediation to enable them to have a meaningful learning experience.
- Girls and boys when they need different types of curriculum or provision, for example through Sex and Relationships Education.
- Minority faith groups.
- Recently arrived communities such as economic migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.
- Children who need support to learn English.
- Children who are gifted and talented in a particular skill or area of interest.
- Children who are looked after by the local authority.
- Any children who are at risk of exclusion.
- Any children who are at risk of radicalisation or exploitation.

We recognise that children learn at different rates and that there are many factors affecting achievement, including ability, emotional state, age and maturity.

We are particularly aware that the needs of our children change as they develop and we try to ensure that we respect and reflect their changing age and maturity.

Co-op Academy Beckfield sees the inclusion of children with special educational needs and disabilities in the full life of the Academy as critical to the success of our Academy.

Responsibilities

The Senior Leadership Team of Co-op Academy Beckfield will ensure high quality education and support for all, when deciding how to allocate resources and to prioritise access to services and accommodation within the Academy.

The Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) will identify a Named Governor for SEND who will fulfil their responsibility to scrutinise the work of the SENDCo and SEND team(s).

All teaching and learning support staff have a responsibility to ensure that each child is given every opportunity to fulfil their potential within the normal classroom situation. All staff should be aware of the learning support needs of all children they teach, and

should ensure that the needs of each child is addressed in accordance with the Teaching and Learning policy.

Differentiated response within school

In our setting we will provide differentiated approaches to the provision of support for children with SEND. This is achieved under the leadership of the SENDCo who is responsible for:

Co-op Academy Beckfield

- Liaising with and advising school staff about individual students' profile of needs and supporting their planning for individual programmes;
- Giving clear guidelines for standard operating procedures when there is a need to do so;
- Co-ordinating specialist provision for students with particular categories of SEND;
- Maintaining the school's SEND register and overseeing records of all children with SEND;
- Liaising with parents of children with SEND and coordinating the work of the Parental Engagement Officer;
- Contributing to in-service training of staff;
- Liaising with external agencies including the Educational Psychology Service and other SEND support services, medical and social services and voluntary bodies;
- Consulting with SENCOs from other schools to ensure effective transition arrangements are made for students who are moving to the Academy.

Wave One

- Full-time education in classes, with additional help and support by class teacher/subject teachers through a differentiated curriculum. This includes Wave One interventions, where all learners benefit, at key moments, from additional small group or 1:1 interventions, within the classroom. These are either delivered by the class teacher or another adult (HLTA, Cover supervisor, Learning Assistant,)

Wave Two

- Additional, time-limited, small group intervention programmes which target learners according to need, to accelerate their rates of progress and secure their learning. This 'catch up' intervention must help children or young people to master their learning so that when they return to their mainstream classes, their progress is maintained. In addition, in class support is maintained as needed.

Wave Three

- Some children need a further level of support that cannot be delivered in the context of the whole class or small groups. Wave Three includes focused individual teaching, delivered by school based or external expertise. Such teaching supplements existing learning and does not replace it and must ensure that children or young people apply their learning to maintain the progress made when they return to class. This will be provided by a Learning Assistant in conjunction with the class teacher. Wave Three intervention might include other alternative specialised provision.

The SENDCo, in collaboration with the phase leaders, pastoral leaders and senior leadership, will deliver and monitor the provision/interventions to ensure the children or young people make progress.

Further specialist support

We will request a Statutory Assessment from the Local Authority when, despite an individualised programme of sustained intervention within Wave 3, the child remains a significant cause for concern. A Statutory Assessment might also be requested by a parent or outside agency. The Academy will have the following information available:

- The action followed within the range models for individual need
- The child's Pupil Passport
- Records and outcomes of regular reviews undertaken
- Information on the child's health and relevant medical history
- Academic progress
- Other relevant assessments from specialists such as Educational Psychologists
- The views of parents/carers
- Where possible, the views of the child
- Social Services/Educational Welfare Service/Multi-Professional reports

An Education, Health and Care Plan will normally be provided where, after a Statutory Assessment, the Local Authority considers the child or young person requires provision beyond that which the school can offer. However, the schools recognise that a request for a Statutory Assessment does not inevitably lead to an EHCP. Parents have the right of appeal and can contest such decisions, at which point the Academy would provide evidence as/when/if requested.

Intervention and Support

Interventions which are additional to those provided as part of the schools' usual differentiated curriculum offer and strategies will be employed to enable the child to progress. These will be coordinated by the SENDCo and will be recorded in an individualised Pupil Passport.

Support from external specialist services and agencies will be sought and referrals made as required, using local, regional and national specialists as the need arises.

Partnership with Parents/Carers

The best results are achieved where parents/carers, schools and LA services work in partnership. In working towards this principle the Academy will do the following;

- Assist parents/carers in their understanding of SEND procedures, school-based provision, and other support available for their child and additional sources of help and information, for example, voluntary organisations and childcare information services.
- Provide opportunities for mediation and discussion where necessary.
- Meet parental/carer preference for school placement subject to the requirement that the individual child's special educational needs can be met; that the education of other young people will not be adversely affected and that resources are efficiently used.
- Ensure that assessment and review processes seek and take account of the views of parents/carers and the child (wherever possible).
- Provide clear and informative written advice for parents/carers about all aspects of the Code of Practice on the identification and assessment of young people with special educational needs and the range of different disabilities.
- Provide clear sign-posting of the support services available for young people with special educational needs within the school and the local area.
- Recognise that families have valuable knowledge of their child which service providers should encourage them to share.
- Encourage families to be actively involved in relevant training/planning appropriate to their child's needs.

Promoting High Expectations

Co-op Academy Beckfield will set high standards for children with special educational needs and disabilities, with an expectation that they will achieve their full potential. In working towards this principle, the schools will ensure that:

- Children with SEND have equal access to extra-curricular and extended school activities provided by Co-op Academy Beckfield.
- The use of assessments provides effective measures of the performance of children with special educational needs. We will moderate our assessments of attainment below the National Curriculum levels and make use of the Progression Guidance to evaluate the performance of our schools' at individual, cohort and whole school level, in order to ensure that our children's academic outcomes are good.

The intended outcomes at Co-op Academy Beckfield are for children to become:

- a) Confident - to face the challenges
- b) Resilient - to cope with difficulties that may come
- c) Independent - to create the life that they deserve to lead

Clear and effective procedures

Procedures for identifying children with SEND and for monitoring their progress will be clear, effective and straightforward. Any such procedures will take account of the Code of Practice on the identification and assessment of special educational needs. In working towards this principle, the schools will;

- Ensure Education Health and Care Plans (if applicable) and Pupil Passports are reviewed regularly and the appropriate action taken where required.
- Ensure procedures are in place to ensure the views of parents/carers and young people are sought during the statutory review process, as well as those of the professionals involved.
- Offer a person-centred approach to review procedures with the most effective mode of contribution identified for each individual child.
- Monitor and evaluate the schools' performance in relation to children with special needs using feedback and surveys to gather their views and those of their parents/carers in addition to assessment data.
- Recognise that effective action for learners with SEND will often depend on close co-operation between the schools, families, health/therapy services and social care services. We are committed to implementing such co-operative arrangements so that services for individual children and their families can be as seamless as possible.

Planning, review and evaluation

Individual teachers have day-to-day responsibilities with regard to planning and managing the care and learning for students with SEND in their group.

The SENDCo is responsible for the co-ordination of specialist provision and interventions.

The SEND governor will report to the LGB annually about the scope and findings of the scrutiny work undertaken.