



Special Educational Needs and Disability – SEND Policy and Information Report

Committee:	Trust Board
Approved on:	July 2021
Next review date:	July 2022
Updated/Reviewed on:	

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy

The ESPRIT Multi Academy Trust is proud of its inclusive academies. All of our academy policies are interlinked and should be read and informed by other policies. In particular, the SEND policy and Multi Academy Trust Information Report is linked to The Equality, Access, Diversity and Cohesion Policy and Scheme, First Aid and Medical Care Policy, Positive Behaviour policy including Physical Restraint and Anti-bullying, Safeguarding and Teaching and Learning policies.

The SEN Code of Practice 2014 says that:

A person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. At compulsory school age this means he or she has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others the same age, or, has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.

(Taken from 2014 SEN Code of Practice: 0 to 25 Years – Introduction xiii and xiv)

The National Curriculum says that:

A wide range of pupils have special educational needs, many of whom also have disabilities. Lessons should be planned to ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving. In many cases, such planning will mean that these pupils will be able to study the full national curriculum (Taken from The National Curriculum in England, 2014, p.8, 4.3)

Requirements and responses to The 2014 Code of Practice: September 2014

Stoke-on-Trent's Local Offer

Local Authorities are required to publish a Local Offer. The purpose of the local offer is to enable parents and young people to see more clearly what services are available in their area and how to access them. It includes provision from birth to 25, across education, health and social care. Stoke on Trent's Local Offer is available from the website <http://localoffer.stoke.gov.uk/kb5/stoke/directory/home.page>

The ESPRIT Multi Academy Trust Aims

Most children are expected to make strong progress with **Quality First Teaching**. The expectation is that most barriers to learning can be addressed through every day, high quality classroom practice and through Nurture provision.

We believe that all children learn best with the rest of their class and our aim is for all children to be working independently and making at least strong progress within the classroom environment unless there is a greater need for alternative support. Children with SEN and/or disabilities are entitled to be taught by their teacher and in our schools' teachers plan to spend time working with all children including those with SEN/D, individually or as part of a group. When allocating any available additional support to children, our focus is on outcomes. We aim to put in sufficient support to enable the child to reach their challenging targets, but without developing a learned dependence on an adult.

Quality First Teaching includes providing inclusion-friendly classrooms. We aim to teach in a way that will support children with tendencies towards dyslexia, dyspraxia, ASD etc. This is good practice to support all children but is vital for those who particularly need it. All of our children access the Foundation Stage and National Curriculum, and we recognise achievement and expertise in all curricular areas. As part of our normal everyday offer, we ensure class differentiation, curriculum content and ideas are adapted and made more accessible by using visual, tactile and concrete resources. Where need is identified, additional support and/ or interventions will be implemented, as a part of a graduated response.

All teachers expect to have children with SEN/D in their classes. They may need to cater for needs within:

Communication and Interaction

- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Speech and Language Disorders

Cognition and Learning

- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- Dyscalculia
- Moderate Learning Difficulties
- Global Developmental Delay

Social, Emotional and Mental Health

- ADHD
- ADD
- Attachment disorders
- Emotional difficulties
- Mental health difficulties

Physical and Sensory

- Including hearing and sight impairments

A single school based SEN category '**Special Education Needs Support**' (**SENS**) is used for children who need support in addition to Quality First Teaching. This is referred to as Wave 3 provision within our academies, as a part of the graduated response and is informed by specialist advice and support gained through referral systems.

Where, after close monitoring and tracking and despite targeted intervention and provision, there is limited progress, a **streamlined assessment process**, co-ordinated across education, health and care and involving children and their families will be implemented. We are committed to this approach; however, it is often a challenge to engage our partners equally in this process. This single, simpler birth to 25 years' assessment process and **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** replaces SEN statements. EHCP's will only be available for children with severe and complex needs and this is proving particularly challenging within our Local Authority.

Roles and responsibilities

The SENCO

The SENCO is Janet Blackhurst (Grove Academy), Emma Harrison (Hamilton Academy), Dionne Wiltshaw (Northwood Broom Academy).

They will:

- Work with the Academy Principal and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the school
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEN policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to ensure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high quality teaching
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- Be the point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority and its support services
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to ensure pupils and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned
- Work with the Academy Principal and governing board to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Ensure the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEN up to date

The SEN governor

The SEN governor will:

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

The Academy Principal

The Academy Principal will:

- Work with the SENCO and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the school
- Have overall responsibility for the provision and progress of learners with SEN and/or a disability

Class teachers

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- 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 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 SEN policy

Moving to an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan)

If children fail to make progress, in spite of high quality, targeted support at SENS, in partnership with parents, we may apply for the child to be assessed for an EHC Plan.

- If the application for an EHCP is successful, there will be a meeting for parents, the child and the academy together with any health or social care professionals who are involved with the family. The meeting will record the child's strengths, their dreams and aspirations as well as the barriers they face. Following the meeting, the Local Authority will produce the EHCP, which will record the decisions made at the meeting.

Personal budgets

Parents of children with an EHCP will be given a choice of whether to take control of a personal budget by agencies managing the funds on their behalf or by receiving direct payments to purchase and manage the provision themselves (as appropriate).

Working in Partnership

We value partnerships with Parents, Governors and Multi-Agency Professionals and consider these partnerships to be imperative for ensuring positive outcomes for children. **Parent Partnership** and support is imperative to the progress and attainment of children with SEN/D. Within The Trust, we work closely with parents and children to ensure that we take into account the child's own views and aspirations and the parents' experience of, and hopes for, their child. Parents are invited and expected to be involved at every stage of the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle for their child. Parents and children are encouraged to contribute to this policy to ensure that it meets the needs of their children.

Aspiration

All children, regardless of their needs or abilities are expected to maximise their learning potential and have high aspirations. Progress will be monitored rigorously with the expectation of strong progress within Quality First Teaching and impact in response to interventions and support. Closing the attainment gap for children who have SEN/D is a key priority within the trust. When considering intervention, we look first at the child's profile of learning in order that we can select the intervention which is best matched to the child. We set a base level judgement and an expected outcome judgement based on accelerated progress. Targets for

children at SEN Support are deliberately challenging in the attempt to close the attainment gap between the children and their peers and to ensure substantial progress from starting points. The impact of interventions is monitored and analysed to ensure maximum impact. Our increasingly limited resources do impact on the additional provision we are able to offer.

Admissions

The Governors of the academy are committed to developing an inclusive academy that reflects the diversity of the local community within the budget and resources we have available. For further details about our arrangements for admission, please see our admissions policy on the academy website.

Accessibility

See Academy Information Report (Question 12) and the Trust's Equality, Access, Diversity and Cohesion Policy Action Plan (Includes disability/accessibility).

Equality

We are also committed to ensure that no member of our Trust community, or any person in contact with the academy, receives less favourable treatment in relation to socio-economic background, health, trade union membership or spent convictions.

Within the Trust, we recognise that **Equality and Diversity extends beyond meeting legal requirements and setting targets**. Our aim is that all sections of society will be truly represented within our academy population. All members of the academy community will be valued as individuals and treated with dignity and respect. Our policy will provide protection, equality and fairness. We seek to redress any imbalances of life chances that are already present at the point of entry to our academy. We will prepare our children for living in a diverse, worldwide society enabling them to value and respect others as equal individuals who belong to groups of preference/choice.

Within the Trust, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn in, work in, and visit our community. In making this assertion, we subscribe to the social model of inclusion. We, in consultation and partnership with the Local Authority, will make reasonable adjustments in relation to teaching and learning and wider aspects of academy life to make sure that the educational environment is as accessible for all.

(For further details see [Equality, Access, Diversity and Cohesion Policy and Scheme](#))

This policy and report is written in full compliance with:

- *Section 69(2) of the Children and Families Act 2014*
- *Regulations 51 and schedule 1 of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 Section 6 of the Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years.*
- *Equality Act 2010*

Special Educational Needs ESPRIT Multi Academy Trust Offer

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

As a parent/carer, what might you ask us? As a trust, how would we answer?

These questions relate to all academies within the trust.

Questions

How does the academy know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

- Team meetings are completed prior to the children entering the academy and multiagency meetings are held to identify and discuss any pre-existing needs - home visits are completed where deemed appropriate.
- If a child is transferring mid-year, conversations will be held with the previous school/academy and parents and pre-existing needs will be identified through these. For children who are already members of the academy, they are continually assessed and progress is discussed as a team. Assessment information, along with observations and specific assessments completed by the Inclusion Lead and agency partners are used to identify specific needs.
- If, as a parent, you feel that your child may have special educational needs you should discuss your concerns with the class teacher or academy Inclusion Team immediately so that we can work together to identify needs and potential provision opportunities to support your child in and out of the academy.
- If you have concerns about your child's progress, you should speak to your child's class teacher initially. If you continue to be concerned that your child is not making progress, you may speak to the Inclusion Lead. The Inclusion and Pastoral team Governor can also be contacted for support.
- At this point, your child may be identified as needing "School Support" (SS) as outlined in the SEN Code of Practice 2014. With your permission, specialist support and advice from a professional outside of the academy will be sought e.g. The academy SEN/D Advisory Teacher, The Educational Psychologist, The ASD Outreach Team, Sensory Service (for students with a hearing or visual need), Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, School Nurse/Health Visitor, Physiotherapist etc.

What kinds of SEND does academy provide for?

All academies within our trust offer provision for children with a wide range of Special Educational Needs and/or

Disabilities, including Speech, Language and Communication, Physical disability, Visual or hearing impairment, Social, Emotional and Mental Health, Autism, ADHD and specific learning disorders. We have extensive knowledge of a range of needs and we are always keen to extend our knowledge, seeking training where appropriate, to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of all children that choose our provision.

How will the academy staff support my child?

Your child may be supported in different ways. Firstly, targets will be set and in class strategies will be identified. If the school has additional resources then additional support may be considered, for example, additional reading sessions, phonics boosters, concentration aids, small group activity sessions, Nurture/alternative provision. Any support will be evaluated and reviewed regularly with the child and parents to ensure that progress is being made.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

a) Class teacher/, via excellent targeted classroom teaching (Quality First Teaching, Wave 2 and Wave 2+ provision).

For your child this would mean

- That the teacher has the highest possible expectations for your child and all pupils in their class.
- That all teaching is built on what your child already knows, can do and can understand.
- That different ways of teaching are in place, so that your child is fully involved in learning in class.
- That specific or proven strategies (which may be suggested by the Inclusion Lead /Team) are in place to support your child to learn.
- Your child's teacher will have carefully checked on your child's progress and will have decided that your child has a gap or gaps in their understanding/learning and needs some extra support to help them make the best possible progress.
- Dependent on available resources, your child may also access small group and/or individual targeted provision within the classroom and, sometimes, in a designated, quiet, distraction free area.
- Personalised plans will be developed with parents and pupils to reflect all provision in place.

b) Specialist provision delivered by outside agencies, e.g. Speech and Language therapy programmes, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and outreach support from Special School practitioners, Mental Health Support Counselors etc.

c) Specified Individual support, funded through additional resources (as identified through the assessment process for EHCP)

- If your child's needs are severe, complex and lifelong, they may need specified individual support.
- This means your child will have been identified by professionals as needing a particularly high level of individual or small-group teaching with specific barriers to learning that cannot be overcome through Quality First Teaching and intervention groups. This specified support is usually provided within an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (previously known as a Statement of Special Educational Needs). This cannot be provided by the school until additional funding is received through the EHCP.

For your child this would mean

- The academy (or you) can request that The Local Authority Services carry out a statutory assessment of your child's needs via the EHC hub. This is a legal process which sets out the amount of support that will be provided for your child.
- After the request has been made to the 'panel of professionals' (with a lot of information about your child, including some from you), they will decide whether they think your child's needs (as described in the paperwork provided), are complex enough to need a statutory assessment. If this is the case, they will ask you, and all professionals involved with your child, to write a report outlining your child's needs.
- After the reports have all been sent in, the panel of professionals will decide if your child's needs are severe, complex and lifelong. If this is the case, they will write an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). If this is not the case, they will ask the academy to continue with SEN school support and also set up a meeting in academy to ensure that a plan is in place to ensure your child makes as much progress as possible.
- The EHCP will outline the level of funding that your child will receive from the Local Authority, and how the support should be used, and what strategies must be put in place. It will also have long- and short term outcome goals for your child, which will be used to develop an EHCP Outcome and Milestone planner which helps us to track the smaller steps of progress.
- An additional adult may be used to support your child with whole class learning, individual programmes or small group provision/support including your child.

How will both you and I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?

- Your child's progress will be continually monitored by his/her class teacher.
- His/her progress will be reviewed formally with Senior Leaders, including the Inclusion Lead, at every assessment point in reading, writing and maths. Other assessments will be used to inform progress discussions, e.g. Developmental Profiles (Locke and Beech), Renfrew, BPVS, Boxall Profile etc.
- Within the Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) children within the academy will be assessed using the Nuffield Communication Screen. This informs the need for

targeted intervention, both within the academy and through external agencies (Speech and Language Therapy)

- All statutory tests are administered and you will receive individual feedback about your child in all relevant year groups.
- Where necessary, children will have targets set by outside agencies specific to their needs. Targets for all SEN/D children will be designed to accelerate learning and close the gap. Progress against these targets will be reviewed regularly, evidence for judgements assessed and a future plan made.
- The progress of children with EHCP will be formally reviewed at an annual or interim review with all adults involved with the child's education, health and care.
- The Inclusion Lead/Team will also check that your child is making strong progress within any individual work and in any group that they take part in.
- All children will receive an annual report and you will be invited to attend a parents' consultation bi-annually.
- You will be invited to review and contribute to your child's support plan at least termly. Forward planning in line with your child's needs will also be integral to this meeting. You and your child are valuable and respected partners within this process.
- Parents are encouraged to make an appointment with the class teacher to discuss need and provision as and when needed/appropriate in line with our open door policy.
- Standardised testing, for example BPVS, Renfrew, Salford, Vernon, PIRA, PERA, PUMA and HAST can be completed and analysed for all children.

How will our child or young person be involved in the decisions about their learning?

All of the children within our academy participate in half termly meetings with their class teachers. They are encouraged to talk about their achievements and to identify the next steps in their learning. Children are also encouraged to identify ways in which we, as staff can support them in making progress and achieving goals. Where children are subject to an EHCP applications, where possible, depending on the age and understanding of the child, we will seek their opinions prior to and during the assessment process.

How will parents be involved in decisions?

Parents are a vital part in the successful provision for children with additional needs and we ensure that Parents are involved in every step of a child's journey. Parents will be invited to regular parent consultation meetings with their child's class teacher to discuss their child's achievements, progress and next steps. Where there are other agencies involved, for example SEND services, Educational Psychology, CAMHS, Speech and Language Therapy, this may require Team Around the Child (TAC) meetings, where all parties will be invited to attend or present reports to discuss achievements, progress, provision and next steps.

Where a child is subject to an EHCP, parents will be invited to attend a weekly review meeting with staff where required.

What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?

- In our Multi Academy Trust the ethos is to be caring, understanding and inclusive; we welcome and celebrate diversity, and believe that high self-esteem is crucial to children's well-being.
- As "nurturing academies", our SEN/D pupils are known to staff. The academy entrances, corridors and doorways are staffed with adults who 'Meet and Greet' to welcome pupils and their families each morning and implement additional support and intervention where resources allow.
- This ensures a smooth positive transition between home and the academy each day.
- The class teacher has overall responsibility for the pastoral, medical and social and emotional care of every child in their class, therefore this should be your first point of contact via the communication diary. Where required, a meeting will be held with the class teacher and if further support is required the class teacher liaises with their year/Key Stage Leader, Inclusion Team/Lead and Deputy Head Teacher where appropriate. The Inclusion and Safeguarding team can always be accessed for further advice and support. This may involve working alongside outside agencies such as Health and Social Care Services.
- Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure that the wellbeing of your child is paramount.

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the academy?

Education, Health and Care Services will be accessed on identification of individual and personalised needs. Examples are given below:

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Advisory teachers (Inclusive Learning Services Team)

- Educational Psychology Services
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Outreach – Special schools
- Speech and Language Therapy
- School Nurse/Health Visitor
- CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)
- Counselling Services
- Young Carers support
- Mental Health Support Team

What training do staff supporting children with SEND receive or have access to? The trust provides training and support to enable all staff to improve the teaching and learning of children, including those with SEN/D. This includes whole academy training on SEN/D issues, such as Quality First Teaching, differentiation, specific needs, changes in policy etc. Staff also attend training courses run by outside agencies that are relevant to the needs of specific children in their class.

We have staff within the trust who are trained and/or experienced in:

- ✓ Speech and Language – Makaton, Spirals, Language Steps, Achieving Speech & Language Targets, Time to Talk, Communication in print, Selective Mutism, Chatter Kids, Stoke Speaks Out (Level 3),

- Nuffield, Cued Articulation, Teaching Talking, Talk Boost
- ✓ Lego therapy
 - ✓ Mental Health First Aid
 - ✓ Nurture
 - ✓ Better Reading Programme
 - ✓ Switch on Reading
 - ✓ Active Literacy
 - ✓ Early Literacy Skills (ELS)
 - ✓ Direct Phonics
 - ✓ Precision Teaching
 - ✓ British Sign Language
 - ✓ Dyslexia
 - ✓ Dyscalculia
 - ✓ Numicon
 - ✓ Global Developmental Delay
 - ✓ Autistic Spectrum Disorder
 - ✓ Nurture – Boxall and Curtis Scale Assessments
 - ✓ Manual Handling
 - ✓ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
 - ✓ Emotion Coaching
 - ✓ Circle of Friends
 - ✓ Social Stories
 - ✓ MAPA
 - ✓ Visual Impairments
 - ✓ Epilepsy
 - ✓ Diabetes
 - ✓ Supporting PE for children with disabilities
 - ✓ Cerebral Palsy
 - ✓ Talk Partners
 - ✓ Inference
 - ✓ Precision Teaching
 - ✓ Read Write Inc

How will my child be included in activities outside of the classroom including academy trips? We aim for all children to have access to all trips and extra-curricular activities. We will ensure that necessary adaptations are made to provision where necessary to ensure that this can happen.

How accessible is the academy environment?

Northwood Broom Academy is situated on one level and there are ramps to the front and rear of the academy, where there are steps to access the academy building. Access to the main entrance is enabled by an assisted door. The separate nursery building is on one level. There are adult disabled toilet facilities in both buildings and there are adapted children's toilet

facilities as well as electrically adjustable changing beds in the main building and the nursery building.

Hamilton Academy is situated on two levels. All classrooms, including nursery, are at ground level. All entrances are accessible by walkways and ramps. Access to the lower ground floor is gained via an external pathway or an internal lift. Access to the nursery building is enabled by an assisted door. There are adult disabled toilet facilities on both levels and an electrically adjustable changing bed in the disabled toilet on the ground floor.

Grove Academy is situated on two levels. There are ramps to the main entrance and pupil entrance to the main building and there is a ramp to access the additional building. There are disabled toilet facilities in the main building. There are year five and six classrooms on the ground and upper floor and the most appropriate space for each child would be considered. There is a height adjustable changing table available.

Accessibility Plans are in place for all academies. Specific reasonable adaptations for children are made with immediate effect where required.

How will the academy prepare and support my child to join the academy or the next stage of education?

Transition is important for all children. For children with SEN/D, specific, personalised induction/transition plans with additional transition arrangements, are implemented. These may include daily/weekly visits, transition books, Social Stories, talking points.

Staff arrange induction/transition meetings for academy-school and parents/carers as appropriate.

How are the academies' resources allocated and matched to children's special educational needs?

All children within our trust receive Quality First Teaching that accommodates the needs of ALL pupils. Pupils with an EHCP are also entitled to additional, personalised provision that meets their specific needs. Academy resources, human and material, are reviewed to reflect the needs of the Special Educational Needs register.

How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

The budget is allocated on a needs basis. The children who have the most complex needs are given the most support. Different children will require different levels of support in order to help them make progress and achieve their potential. Provision mapping, will be reviewed termly, in collaboration with parents and all parties involved; and support will be adapted as appropriate.

How are parents involved in the academy? How can I be involved?

We have an open door policy across the trust. Parent consultations take place termly but parents are encouraged to make appointments via class dojo with the class teacher and/or Inclusion Lead/Team as needs arise. Parent/child workshops/events take place regularly and a celebration

of success events takes place weekly. Parents are also welcome to volunteer in the academy, for example listening to readers or to help with academy events. You will also be invited to attend SEN/D drop ins regularly and SEN/D Reviews, where your child's Pupil Passport will be reviewed in consultation with yourself, your child and the class teacher.

What do I do if I want to make a complaint?

Parents, initially are asked to discuss their concerns with the class teacher and progress through the stages of leadership within the academy. Parents who feel the need to make a complaint are advised to access the complaints policy, which is available from the academy office.

What other support is available to parents and how can I contact them?

Within each academy there is the Pastoral team and the Inclusion team, all of whom can be contacted via class dojo or the academy office. Where further support is required an Early Help assessment and plan will be considered, which will enable parents to access support and guidance from a wide range of services.

CONTACT DETAILS

Northwood Broom Academy Mrs Dionne Wiltshaw Inclusion Lead Keelings Road ST16QA 01782234379 northwoodbroom@espritmat.org	Hamilton Academy Mrs Emma Harrison Inclusion Lead Barthomley Road Birches Head ST16NW 01782 234420 hamilton@espritmat.org Grove Academy Mrs Janet Blackhurst Deputy Principal Turner Street Northwood ST1 2NL 01782 234550 grove@espritmat.org
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Data Protection

ESPRIT Multi Academy Trust is required to keep and process certain information about its staff members, pupils and parents in accordance with its legal obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The Trust may, from time to time, be required to share personal information about its staff or pupils with other organisations, mainly the DfE, LA, other schools and educational bodies, and potentially children's services.

Further information can be found at;

<https://www.hamilton.stoke.sch.uk/terms-and-conditions/gdpr-and-privacy-notice>

This Policy is linked to the following policies and documents:

- Health and safety policy
- Multi Academy Trust Equality, Diversity & Cohesion Policy & Scheme
- The Positive Behaviour Policy
- First Aid and Medical Policy
- Well-being Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- The Data Protection Policy

<https://www.hamilton.stoke.sch.uk/policies>