



SEND POLICY

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This policy should be read in conjunction with the Equal Opportunities Policy and SEND Information Report 2025.

For the purposes of this document, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) refers to the students who encounter specific barriers to learning and who may access some learning interventions as a result. Please also refer to Part 2 of this document for further definition.

Tapton School values the abilities and achievements of all its students and is committed to providing the best possible environment for learning. Our SEND policy reinforces the need for fully inclusive, quality first teaching. The Governing Body ensures through partnership with the Leadership Team and the SEND team that appropriate provision is made for students with SEND.

Tapton School is an inclusive school, engendering a sense of community and belonging through its:

- Inclusive ethos and vision
- Broad and balanced curriculum for all students
- Systems for identification of barriers to learning and participation and varied strategies to overcome them
- High expectations and bespoke targets for all students
- High quality professional development for all staff

Students identified as having SEND are, as far as is practicable, fully integrated into mainstream classes. Every effort is made to ensure that there is the opportunity to fully access the full curriculum that Tapton offers and to participate in all aspects of school life.

1. The SEND Aims of the School

- All teachers are teachers of every child
- To ensure that all students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- To provide a differentiated curriculum and plan associated lessons appropriate to the needs and abilities of individual students
- To ensure the identification of students having SEND as early as possible through partnership with parents and carers, school staff and outside agencies
- To ensure that students with SEND take as full a part in all school activities in as far as is possible within the school's framework
- To ensure that parents and carers of SEND students are informed about their child's progress
- To ensure that SEND students have a voice in decisions around their provision and any possible interventions
- To ensure that SEND students make successful transitions at all relevant key stages
- To ensure that staff undertake high quality training to support the delivery of SEND provision

We recognise that many students have Special Educational Needs at different times in their school life and will seek to cater for them appropriately according to need and within the resourcing available to our school.

2. Definition of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

A child has additional educational needs if they have **learning difficulties** that call for **special educational provision** to be made.

A child has **learning difficulties** if they:

- Have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age.
- Have a disability which prevents or hinders them from accessing educational opportunities in the same manner as their peers.

2. Definition of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Special educational provision means:

For a child over two, educational provision which is additional to, or different from, the educational provision ordinarily available for children of the same age in mainstream schools in the area.

Children must not be regarded as having learning difficulties just because their first language is not English.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The SEND team within Tapton School:

Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo

Assistant SENDCo

SEND Lead Teacher

Higher Level Teaching Assistants

Level 2 & 3 Teaching Assistants

SEND Governor

The Role of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo)

The SENDCo plays a crucial role in the school's SEND and inclusion provision. This involves working with the Leadership Team and the Governing Body to determine the strategic development and implementation of the policy. Other responsibilities include:

- Maintaining the SEND register: this is a live document to which all staff have access. It is found electronically in a confidential staff area on Tapton's Internal Teacher Area. Students move on and off the SEND register according to their needs and strengths. The SEND register describes an outline of needs and strengths of individuals and is designed to aid teachers in their day-to-day planning.
- Maintaining one-page profiles (Student Engagement Plans) of high needs students – this adds another layer of understanding to the more complex SEND students, and in conjunction with the school's rigorous tracking, targeting and assessment processes, means that SEND students at Tapton do not have Individual Education Plans
- Overseeing the day-to-day operation of the policy
- Co-ordination of the provision for SEND students
- Leading the SEND department
- Liaising with and giving advice and support to teaching and non-teaching staff in school
- Overseeing students' records and data
- Liaising and meeting with parents regularly – an offer of three times a year in accordance with the SEN Code of Practice (2014)
- Coordinating well planned and bespoke training for staff on a regular basis in order that they may deliver inclusive, quality first teaching
- Supervising the SEND budget for applicable students within school
- Monitoring the effective use of these funds and measuring the impact of this intervention
- Liaising with pastoral staff in school on a daily basis
- Liaising with all external agencies in order to better understand student strengths and needs
- Working with the rest of the Senior Leadership Team and the Headteacher in order to keep them informed of new developments and departmental issues and their impact on the whole school
- Overseeing Access Arrangements for examinations in partnership with the Exams Officers.

For effective co-ordination, staff should be aware of:

- The SEND policy
- The SEND+ register – this provides a summarised explanation of individual SEND students' needs, strengths and aims
- The responsibility all teaching staff have in making provision for SEND students
- The commitment required by teaching and non-teaching staff to keep the SEND team informed of students' progress

The Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body's responsibilities to students with SEND include:

- Ensuring that provision of a high standard is made for SEND students
- Ensuring the development, monitoring and reviewing of the SEND policy
- Having regard to the SEN Code of Practice and other relevant SEND guidance
- Reporting on the school's SEND provision
- Nominating a link governor who maintains a relationship with the SENDCo

The Role of the Subject Teacher

The SEN Code of Practice (2014) clearly acknowledges the importance of the teacher, whose responsibilities include:

- Being aware of the school's procedures for the identification and assessment of, as well as the provision for SEND students (including this policy)
- Making themselves aware of SEND students, their strengths and their needs and planning accordingly
- Collaborating with the SENDCo and the SEND team to decide the action required to assist the student to progress
- Liaising regularly with the Teaching Assistants who work in their lessons and deploying them effectively
- Differentiating teaching and learning within lessons to ensure that individual learning needs are met, as well as closely monitoring their progress
- Developing constructive relationships with students and parents and carers
- Attending appropriate training and ensuring their knowledge is up to date

The Role of the Student

Students should be involved in making decisions about their SEND provision. The ways in which students are encouraged to participate should reflect the child's evolving maturity. Most often this is through planned short meetings with the SENDCo or their Key Worker, unless their SEND prevents them from participating in this.

The Role of the Parent/Carer

Tapton School recognises that parents and carers have a unique overview of their child's needs and will have clear views on how best to support them. The SENDCo will work in partnership with parents and carers, pastoral staff, teachers and outside agencies to ensure appropriate provision for SEND students. The parents and carers have a responsibility to work in partnership to inform the school of any relevant and significant changes for the child and to engage positively with the school through the three reviews on offer annually.

4. Admission Arrangements

Tapton School is an inclusive school and admission arrangements are outlined in the school's Equal Opportunities Policy and Admissions Policy.

5. Identification, Assessment and Provision

Allocation of Resources

Resources for SEND students are allocated according to need, which may change dependant on the circumstances. The base budget covers teaching and curriculum expenses for all students, while a SEND budget covers the cost of individual provision for students (interventions and other targeted support). Students with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans are provided with a specific allocation of funds, which will be reflected in their provision.

The Governing Body ensure that resources are allocated to support appropriate provision for all students requiring it, and in meeting the objectives set out in this policy. Tapton School follows Sheffield SEND (Children's and Young People's Service) guidance to ensure that students' needs are appropriately met and that statutory duties are carried out.

Categories of Special Educational Need and Disabilities

The SEN Code of Practice (2014) does not assume that there are rigid categories of Special Educational Need but recognises that children's needs can be described using four broad areas. These are:

- Communication and Interaction Difficulties
- Cognition and Learning Difficulties
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties
- Sensory and / or Physical Needs

The SEN Code of Practice (2014) makes it clear that "all teachers are teachers of students with special educational needs."

Early Identification

Early identification of SEND students is important to us. Tapton School will use appropriate screening and assessment tools, and ascertain student progress through:

- Evidence obtained by teacher observations and assessments
- Internal assessment (following Tapton School's regular and detailed calendar of tracking and assessment)
- Screening and diagnostic tests
- Records and feedback from the family of schools.
- Information from parents and carers
- External exam results
- External agency information

Usually, it is a combination of the above rather than one single factor which is used to determine a student's SEND.

Levels of Additional Educational Need

Teaching SEND students is a whole school responsibility. The core of a teacher's work involves a continuous cycle of planning, teaching and assessing and setting appropriate targets, considering the differences in students' abilities and interests. Some targeted students may need increased levels of support.

All teachers are responsible for identifying students with SEND in partnership with and under the guidance of the SENDCo. Assessment is the process by which students with SEND are identified, and one of the factors in considering a child's additional needs is academic progress.

The SEN Code of Practice (2014) advocates a graduated response to meeting students' needs through targeted interventions which increase or decrease according to the students' difficulties and strengths at the time, and which should be individualised to allow students to meet their potential.

5. Identification, Assessment and Provision

Levels of Additional Educational Need

If the school decides, in collaboration with parents and carers, that a student requires further additional support or interventions to make progress, the SENDCo will liaise with relevant staff to ensure that this happens. However, the subject teachers remain responsible for the careful planning and delivering of specific subject based curriculum.

Typical SEND interventions might be:

- Short term extractions from non-core subjects
- In class support
- Short term periods of work with external agencies
- Use of specific reading, literacy or numeracy programs
- Reading and writing programs with peer support from Sixth Form students

Parents will be informed of students' progress in interventions and around school through the school's normal reporting systems, as well as through the offer of three SEND review meetings a year (typically one a term, one of which may be held during a Progress Evening, and in some circumstances may consist of a telephone conversation). Open communication is encouraged and parents are welcome to contact the Key Worker or SENDCo via telephone or email as and when the need arises.

Tapton School will request a Statutory Assessment possibly leading to an Education and Health Care (EHC) Plan from the Local Authority when, despite an individualised programme of sustained SEND intervention the child remains a significant cause of concern. A Statutory Assessment can also be requested by a parent or an outside agency. The school will provide the evidence required by this process which is available at the time.

The school recognises that the request for a Statutory Assessment does not inevitably lead to an EHC Plan. An EHC Plan is a legal document that outlines the need of the students and their objectives. It outlines the additional provision that will be allocated to promote achievement and is relevant to the student until they are 25.

Progress of the EHC Plan will be monitored by the issuing authority.

6. Record Keeping

The school will record the steps taken to meet students' individual needs. The SENDCo and the SEND department will maintain the SEND records and ensure appropriate access to them, working in line with the school's data protection policy. The SEND records may include:

- The SEND register
- One-page profiles (Student Engagement Plans) of high needs students
- Information from previous schools
- Information from parents/carers
- Information on progress and behaviour
- Information from other agencies

Tapton School uses an electronic system to archive, and store SEND information. This is a secure way of ensuring that records are kept in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018

7. Evaluating Success

The success of the school's SEND policy and provision is evaluated through:

- Student tracking and data for individuals as well as for significant cohorts
- Monitoring of procedures and practice by the SEND Governor
- School Self Evaluation and School Improvement Plan
- Performance development and appraisal systems for all colleagues in the SEND team.

8. Complaints Procedures

In the event that parents and carers have any complaints or queries, referring to Tapton School's Complaints Policy would be the first port of call.

The SEN Code of Practice (2014) outlines additional measures (on top of the school's usual complaints procedures) the Local Authority must set up for preventing and resolving disagreements