

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

Blackpool Skills Academy C.I.C.

1. Introduction

At Blackpool Skills Academy C.I.C., we are committed to providing an inclusive environment where all students, regardless of their individual needs or abilities, are supported to achieve their full potential. This Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy outlines how we identify, assess, and support students with SEND, ensuring compliance with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2015) and relevant statutory guidance.

2. Aims of the SEND Policy

- To ensure that all students with SEND have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, including vocational training.
 - To identify and assess students' individual needs at the earliest possible stage.
 - To provide appropriate support and interventions tailored to each student's unique requirements.
 - To involve parents/carers, students, and external agencies in the planning and review of support.
 - To create an inclusive school environment where diversity is celebrated, and all students feel valued.
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3. Definition of SEND

A student is considered to have SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision. This includes students who:

- Have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of their peers.
- Have a disability that prevents or hinders them from accessing the school's facilities or curriculum.

SEND is categorised into four broad areas:

1. Communication and Interaction
2. Cognition and Learning
3. Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH)

4. Sensory and/or Physical Needs

4. Roles and Responsibilities

1. The Governing Body

- Ensures the school fulfils its statutory duties regarding SEND.
- Reviews and approves the SEND policy annually.

2. The Headteacher

- Oversees the implementation of the SEND policy.
- Allocates resources to support students with SEND.

3. SEND Coordinator (SENDCo)

- Manages the day-to-day implementation of SEND provision.
- Coordinates identification, assessment, and support for students with SEND.
- Liaises with parents, carers, staff, and external agencies.
- Monitors the progress of students with SEND and reviews their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

4. Teachers and Support Staff

- Deliver high-quality teaching that is differentiated to meet the needs of all students.
- Implement strategies outlined in IEPs and contribute to the monitoring and review process.

5. Parents and Carers

- Collaborate with the school to support their child's education.
- Provide relevant information and feedback during reviews and meetings.

6. Students

- Are encouraged to take an active role in their learning and provide input on their support plans, where appropriate.

5. Identification and Assessment of SEND

1. Early Identification

- Students are assessed through baseline assessments, observations, and regular progress reviews to identify any difficulties.
- Teachers and parents/carers can raise concerns about a student's progress or behaviour.

2. **Graduated Approach**

Blackpool Skills Academy follows a graduated approach to SEND support:

- **Assess:** Gather information about the student's needs.
- **Plan:** Develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in consultation with parents/carers.
- **Do:** Implement targeted support and interventions.
- **Review:** Monitor progress and adjust provision as necessary.

3. **External Support**

- The school works closely with external agencies such as educational psychologists, speech and language therapists, and occupational therapists to ensure students receive specialised support.
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6. **Individual Education Plans (IEPs)**

IEPs are created for students requiring additional support and outline:

- The student's strengths, needs, and aspirations.
 - Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) targets.
 - Strategies and interventions to address the student's needs.
 - Roles and responsibilities of staff involved in the student's support.
 - A timeline for review and evaluation.
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7. **Supporting Students with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs)**

For students with EHCPs, the Academy ensures that:

- Provision meets the requirements specified in the EHCP.
 - Annual reviews are conducted to assess progress and update the EHCP as needed.
 - Parents/carers and external agencies are actively involved in the review process.
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8. **Inclusive Curriculum and Environment**

1. **Differentiated Curriculum**

- Lessons are planned to ensure all students, including those with SEND, can access the curriculum.
- Vocational training in Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy, and Construction trades is tailored to accommodate students' individual needs.

2. **Adaptations and Accessibility**

- Physical spaces and resources are adapted to support students with sensory, physical, or mobility needs.
- Assistive technologies and resources are provided where required.

3. Emotional and Social Development

- Students with SEMH needs are supported through counselling, mentoring, and group activities designed to build resilience and social skills.
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9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of SEND provision is regularly monitored through:

- Analysis of student progress data.
 - Feedback from students, parents, and staff.
 - Annual review of the SEND policy and procedures.
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10. Training for Staff

All staff receive training to support the needs of students with SEND. Training may include:

- Differentiation strategies.
 - Supporting students with specific conditions (e.g., autism, ADHD, dyslexia).
 - Safeguarding and mental health awareness.
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11. Complaints Procedure

Parents/carers who are dissatisfied with the SEND provision can:

1. Discuss concerns with the SENDCo.
 2. Escalate the matter to the Headteacher.
 3. If unresolved, submit a formal complaint to the Governing Body, following the school's complaints procedure.
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12. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure it remains up-to-date and reflective of best practices and statutory requirements.

Contact Information

For further information or support regarding SEND, please contact:

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This SEND policy reflects Blackpool Skills Academy's commitment to creating an inclusive, supportive, and accessible educational environment where all students can thrive.