



## Westcliff Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy

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### Introduction

Westcliff is an inclusive Primary Academy with an age 2+ nursery setting. We are situated in Bispham, which is a busy, bustling village on the outskirts of Blackpool in Lancashire. Westcliff Primary Academy is part of the Fylde Coast Academy Trust (FCAT). As an inclusive academy we are committed to ensuring every **child** has access to an education which meets their needs and prepares them for adulthood. Westcliff Primary Academy is committed to working with all our pupils, families and a range of external partners to ensure all aspects of academy life are accessible and appropriately adapted to meet a wide range of individual needs.

### Our SEND Intent Statement

**All FCAT academies strive to provide an inclusive and welcoming education for all learners, enabling pupils with SEND to be ‘the best they can be,’ now and in the future.**

Westcliff Primary Academy aims to achieve this intent by embedding the following principles:

- Children come first.
- Positive relationships underpin all our work.
- High expectations for all – understanding that everyone given the correct support can achieve. (FCAT Improvement Model)

At Westcliff Academy we aim to achieve this intent by ensuring all our children are confident, happy and resilient learners, ready to face the challenges of high school and life beyond.



## Definition of SEND

The definition of SEND used across Westcliff Primary Academy is taken from the SEND Code of Practice which states a child or young person has SEND if they have:

“A learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. \* A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she: has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of 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.” (SEND Code of Practice, January 2015 updated 2020). Introduction section xii & xiv Pages 15 & 16)

\*him/her/they/them

## Categories of SEND

SEND is recognised as four broad areas of need:

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

At Westcliff Primary Academy we recognise **pupils** may have multiple needs. A pupil's primary area of need is the need which is creating the main barrier to learning.

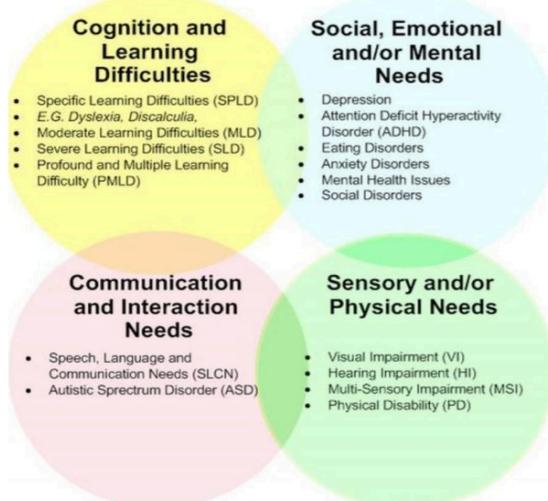


Figure 1: Categories of need



Many pupils identified with SEND needs are well placed in our inclusive mainstream provision. As an inclusive academy we strive to meet an increasing number of our pupils' needs through High Quality Adaptive Teaching, deliberate practice and a Trauma Informed Approach.

## Ensuring Effective SEND Provision

To enable Westcliff Academy to provide high quality provision for pupils with SEND the following eight areas of practice are **developed** across our academy:

- 1) **Effective Leadership of SEND**, ensuring clear direction and accountability for SEND provision.
- 2) **Early and accurate assessment and identification of need**, with systems and processes which enable our SENCO to work closely with teachers, TAs and parent/ carers to support the early identification of pupils with SEND. Early identification is the process where concerns about an individual are noted and acted upon as soon as they become apparent; **this could be prior to a child entering nursery provisions to a need arising in Year 4**.
- 3) **High Quality Adaptive Teaching and Learning and a developing Trauma Informed Approach** for all pupils including those with SEND.
- 4) **A graduated and holistic approach to SEND provision** which is responsive to the needs, development and wellbeing of the pupils.
- 5) **Effective monitoring, tracking and evaluation** of pupil progress and attainment of learners with SEND.
- 6) **The efficient use of resources** to support pupils' needs including staff access to SEND CPD (Continuing Professional Development).
- 7) **SEND improvement processes** to support the identification of success and address areas which require development.
- 8) **Systems which ensure our academy meets their statutory responsibilities** for pupils with SEND.

## Working in Partnership

Staff at Westcliff Academy are committed to working in partnership with integrity and an outward mindset with the following stakeholders:

- **Pupils with SEND** - listening to and responding to pupil voice.
- **Parent/carers of children with SEND** - working in partnership to support their child.
- **External agencies** - supporting children, their families and staff. At Westcliff Academy we work in partnership with educational specialists and external agencies, including health, children's social care, as well as Blackpool and Lancashire Local Authority SEND teams.
- **Colleagues** across our academy and Trust - working together to develop shared staff expertise and support.

## Trauma Informed Approach

Within FCAT, a Trauma-Informed Approach means that all staff recognise how life experiences, particularly those involving significant stress or adversity, can affect a



pupil's ability to learn and feel safe. Rather than focusing solely on a pupil's behaviour, we seek to understand the underlying causes, prioritising the building of stable, respectful relationships to create a sense of physical and emotional security for every learner.

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## Roles and Responsibilities

All leaders at Westcliff Academy are leaders of SEND and therefore have a responsibility to include developing SEND provision and meeting the needs of pupils with SEND as part of their leadership roles.

To ensure clear direction and accountability for SEND provision at Westcliff Academy the SLT and SENCO, Rachael Hazlewood, are responsible for ensuring staff work with pupils and their families to support identification of SEND needs and support staff to provide pupils with the support they require, at a level appropriate to their needs.

All teachers at Westcliff Academy are responsible for meeting the needs and the progress of all pupils in their class including those with SEND.

In this policy the term 'teachers' encompasses Teaching Assistants and Support Staff (SLSA) who work alongside teachers to support and teach our pupils.

## Interventions

Interventions are used across Westcliff Academy to support pupils to progress and secure positive outcomes. An intervention is defined as, "Any action or series of actions which are taken specifically to meet the particular identified needs of a pupil." (5 supporting Documents for Early Identification of Children's Needs, 2021, [asset.nasen.org.uk](http://asset.nasen.org.uk)) These include micro interventions used to support pupils as part of FCAT's inclusive universal+ provision.

**Graduated Approach to supporting pupils with SEND.** At Westcliff Academy we follow the Assess-Plan-Do Review cycle to monitor the impact of interventions, helping our staff to develop a growing understanding of children's needs and effective ways to support children with SEND.





## **Figure 2: Assess, Plan, Do and Review Cycle (APDR)**

The Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle is part of our graduated SEND provision. Parents/Carers and children will be supported to be involved at all stages of the graduated approach.

## **Identification of Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

The early and accurate identification of SEN is a collaborative process involving education staff, parents and carers, pupils and multi-agency professionals. Across all FCAT academies, we ensure needs are identified promptly through:

- **Transition Information:** Reviewing records and data from previous settings.
- **Continuous Monitoring:** This involves a clear analysis of the pupil's needs, drawing on teacher observations and assessments, the pupil's previous progress and their development compared to peers.
- **Parent/Carer Insight:** We recognise that parents and carers hold unique knowledge of their child's development. We encourage open communication and support parents/carers in sharing concerns via the Class Teacher, Form Tutor or Academy SENCO.
- **Pupil Voice:** Listening and responding to pupils is an essential part of knowing, identifying and providing appropriate support.

When a potential need is identified, FCAT academies follow the Graduated Approach to supporting pupils with SEND (see figure 2 p 4) identifying appropriate SEND Provision. This process is overseen by the SENCO, who monitors progress and coordinates a holistic assessment to ensure the accurate identification of need.

## **Specialist Assessment and Profiling**

Where appropriate, the SENCO will implement screening and profiling tools to ensure the accurate identification of SEN. These assessments may be conducted by:

- The SENCO or internal SEN team.
- Specialist teachers.
- Multi-agency professionals, such as Speech and Language Therapists and Educational Psychologists.



## Graduated SEND Provision

### 1. Universal Provision

The first stage of provision for all our pupils at Westcliff Academy including those with SEND is High Quality Adaptive Teaching and a developing Trauma Informed Approach to meeting need. (Deliberate practice)

If children's needs are being met, universal provision continues.

### 2. Universal + Provision

If pupils' needs are identified as not progressing as expected, universal + provision will be implemented. The purpose of this provision is to provide;

- a) effective monitoring
- b) micro interventions.

This provision ensures **effective inclusive practices** and **reasonable adjustments** are applied across our inclusive classrooms. When successful, pupils receiving Universal Plus support **thrive, make progress** and have their needs met effectively. Successful micro interventions will be recorded as part of the Westcliff's monitoring and transition information.

For pupils whose needs are not met through this provision, the process ensures pupils are **accurately identified** so they can receive appropriate **targeted support** in a timely manner.

### 2. Targeted SEN Support

If children's needs are assessed as not being fully met and pupils are identified as requiring provision which is, "Different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age," they will receive targeted SEN support. (SEND Code of Practice, section 6 para 6.15 Page 94)

These pupils will be on the SEN register, coded k. These pupils will have a SEN Support Plan (K). The Targeted SEN Support Plan will detail the targeted, timed interventions the pupil will receive.

Targeted SEN support plans will be reviewed at least termly with families, pupils and staff as part of the assess, plan, do, review cycle. If pupils' outcomes are met, and no further outcomes are necessary the pupil will return to universal plus provision.

If outcomes are not met children will continue to receive targeted SEN support. If needed, as part of the Westcliff Academy's graduated SEND provision additional external agency support will be sought to help develop the interventions being provided and ensure there are no unmet SEND needs.

### 3. Specialist SEND support. -Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

For identified children it may be appropriate to progress to an EHC needs assessment to support more complex needs. The SENCO will coordinate the necessary specialist support and prepare the documentation for the external assessment panel.



The assessment panel is an external body of professionals who will decide based upon all the evidence whether it is appropriate for an EHCP plan to be issued or for a pupil to remain on Targeted SEN support.

A child's EHCP will include detailed information about the child's needs, the arrangements to support the pupil, identified provision and agreed outcomes for the end of the child's current key stage.

Children with an EHCP will be on the SEN register, coded E. These pupils will have a Specialist SEN Support Plan (E). The Specialist SEN Support Plan will detail the targeted, timed interventions detailed in the pupils EHCP section F.

Progress towards the end of key stage outcomes identified in these children's EHCPs will be reviewed termly with families, children and staff and will include an Annual Review.

Annual reviews will always include parents/carers and the child. External agencies supporting the pupil will be invited to attend the review, or provide written advice and reports where attendance is not possible.

If a child's outcomes are met, and no further outcomes are necessary, an EHCP can cease at the annual review and the pupil will return to the appropriate level of Westcliff's graduated SEND provision.

If a child is working towards outcomes in their EHCP, the plan will be maintained.

If needs cannot be met, as stated in the EHCP, the SENCO will call an emergency Annual Review to seek further specialist advice including the consideration of specialist or alternative provision.

## Monitoring List

Westcliff Academy will have a monitoring list of pupils who are receiving Universal + provision. The SENCO will ensure these records are accurate, kept up to date and shared with staff who work or will be working with these pupils.

## SEN Register.

Westcliff Academy has a SEN register. The register enables Senior Leaders, teachers and support staff to be aware of children receiving targeted or specialist SEN provision. The SEN register will have additional information about these pupils to support staff across each academy to provide effective support.

Westcliff Academy also has a monitoring list of pupils who are receiving Universal + provision. The SENCO will ensure these records are accurate and kept up to date.

## Curriculum Entitlement

All children with SEND at Westcliff Academy will access a broad and balanced curriculum appropriate to the child's age, development and SEND needs.



## Uniform

At Westcliff Primary Academy, uniforms play an important role in promoting a sense of community and belonging. In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, FCAT is committed to making reasonable adjustments if a pupil's SEN needs or their disability is identified as a barrier to wearing a specific uniform item. Agreed adjustments will be determined on a case by case basis. Adjustments must be formally noted within the pupil's SEN Support Plan (K) or Specialist Support Plan (E).

## High-Quality Teaching (Quality First Teaching)

FCAT Academies recognise that high-quality teaching, adapted for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have, or may have, SEND. In line with the EEF Guidance Report: Special Educational Needs in Mainstream Schools, our teachers prioritise the 'Five-a-Day' principle to ensure that all pupils can access the curriculum within the classroom:

- **Explicit Instruction:** Providing clear explanations, modelling and frequent checks for understanding.
- **Cognitive and Metacognitive Strategies:** Supporting pupils to plan, monitor and evaluate their own learning while managing cognitive load.
- **Scaffolding:** Providing temporary supports (such as writing frames or visual prompts) that are gradually removed as a pupil gains independence.
- **Flexible Grouping:** Allocating groups based on relative need for a specific task.
- **Using Technology:** Using technology to support and remove barriers to learning and recording.

As per NASEN guidance, we believe that "every teacher is a teacher of SEND." Our academies regularly review the quality of classroom teaching to ensure it is inclusive by design, acknowledging that additional intervention cannot compensate for a lack of high-quality, universal provision.

## Assessment

All children including children with SEND, will be assessed formatively to ensure barriers to learning can be broken down, gaps in learning can be quickly addressed and interventions adapted to meet need. This is the start of the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle.

The Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle for children on the SEN register will be completed formally at least termly for all pupils on the SEND register

Children will also be assessed using a range of summative assessments. Children's progress and attainment will be tracked and monitored to ensure there is a positive impact of SEND provision or to identify areas requiring development, these will be actioned.

## Ambitious End points

Assessment information will be used to enable staff at Westcliff Academy to understand each pupil's starting point. From these starting points ambitious end points will be identified for pupils with SEND (this may be the child's target on their support plan).

## Transition

Westcliff Academy recognises times of transition are challenging for all children and particularly for children with SEND. Therefore, our SENCOs will coordinate meetings and or discussions with pupils, parents, feeder providers and secondary or specialist provisions to



ensure effective and efficient communication and transfer of information. At Westcliff Academy we also recognise transition takes place every time a learner moves year group. The SENCo and Class Teacher will coordinate the transfer of information as appropriate to ensure that no gaps to learning occur during these times.

## Staff Development

To develop staff awareness, knowledge and expertise in SEND, the SENCO facilitates appropriate training opportunities for all staff at Westcliff Academy. FCAT encourages and supports ongoing training for all SENCOs. The SENCO also attend the termly SENCO Primary FCAT network meetings, receive support from the Director for SEND and have the opportunity to participate in a FCAT SEND review.

## The Local Offer

Westcliff Academy works in partnership with Blackpool Local Authority as an agency partner in the development, review and publication of the Blackpool Local Offer. The Blackpool Local Offer gives pupils with SEND and their families' information about the support services. Blackpool local authority provides for pupils with SEND. This includes access to impartial advice from the SEND Information Advice and Support Survives (SENDIASS).

The Local Offer can be assessed through this link:

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Education-and-schools/Local-offer/>

There is also a link available on our school websites.

## Appendix 1 - Role and Responsibilities

### **The Local Authority**

To support children, young people and their families, the 2014 Act requires all local authorities to publish a Local Offer. The Local Offer is a description of support and services which are available to children and young people who have SEND, and their families. It provides details of how services can be accessed. The Local Offer is required to bring together in one place, information about provision, including how this can be accessed from a wide range of statutory and non-statutory providers including voluntary organisations. Refer to the FCAT SEND Policy for links to both the Blackpool and Lancashire SEND Local Offers.

### **Headteacher**

The Headteacher for each academy is responsible for the leadership and management of all aspects of their academy's work including provision for pupils with SEND. The Headteacher works closely with the academies' SENCO to ensure pupils with SEND have their needs met. The Headteacher keeps the Governing Body fully informed about SEND provision and impact.

### **SENC**

The SENCO in collaboration with the Headteacher and Governing Body determines the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in their academy to ensure the well being and progress of pupils with SEND. The SENCO is responsible for the day to day development and operation of the SEND policy and coordination of the provision made for individual pupils with SEND. The SENCO works closely with pupils, staff, parents /carers and other agencies.

The SENCO provides professional guidance to colleagues with the aims of securing high quality adaptive teaching for pupils with SEND. The SENCO collaborates with class teachers, so that learning for all pupils has equal priority and available resources are used to maximum effect.



Support for staff and pupils is achieved through the: analysis and assessment of pupils' needs, progress and achievement; monitoring and supporting the development of high quality adaptive teaching and the setting of targets for improvement. The SENCO requests external professional involvement and advice, when appropriate, this may include advisory teachers, educational psychologists and speech and language therapists.

The SENCO works with the Headteacher and the academy's SEND Governor to ensure the academy meets its legislative responsibilities, regarding SEND. This includes keeping an accurate register of pupils with SEND; developing and publishing an annual SEND Information Report and SEND policy. Ensuring there is a Link to the LEA Local Offer and FCAT Accessibility Plan via the academies' website.

### **Teachers**

Teachers are responsible for meeting the needs and the progress of all pupils in their class including those with SEND. Teachers strive to deliver High Quality Adaptive Teaching and a Trauma Informed Approach based on accurate assessment to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. Teachers with the support of the SENCO identify, as early as possible, pupils with SEND within their own class. Teachers consult with the SENCO to meet the needs of pupils with SEND in their class. Teachers liaise with and support parents /carers of pupil in their class at all stages of the graduated approach and ensure SEND related paperwork for pupils in their class is kept up to date and is of high quality. Teachers ensure Teaching Assistants and Support Staff assigned to their class are well deployed and effective.

### **Teaching Assistants (TAs) and Support Staff (SLSA)**

Teaching Assistants and Support staff, with the support and direction of the teacher and SENCO, support, teach and assess pupils. They take time to develop their knowledge of the needs of the pupils therefore helping to break down barriers to learning and support pupil progress in a way which maximises pupil's independence and self-esteem.

### **External Agencies**

External Agencies work in partnership with academy staff and parents /carers to share their expertise and professional support to help meet the needs of pupils with SEND.

### **Parents/ Carers**

The relationship between parents/carers is crucial to all pupil's educational progress and wellbeing. Therefore, all academy staff work towards achieving positive and effective partnerships with all parents/ carers.

