

County Upper School SEND Policy 2021



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**Bury St Edmunds County
Upper School**

**Policy Statement for Special Educational Needs
and Disability (SEND)**

and Additional Needs

September 2021

Parents of pupils with SEND from academies across the Bury St Edmunds All-Through Schools were engaged in the drafting of this policy. Their contributions helped to shape the final policy document which follows the policy of Unity Schools Partnership.

Legislative Compliance

This policy has regard to the Children and Families Act 2014

The Code of Practice for SEND: 2015

Equality Act 2010

Section 1

Inclusion – policy and practice

Vision

Bury St Edmunds County Upper School strives to ensure that all pupils leave their settings as confident, resilient individuals, positive about their future and equipped to deal with challenges – having a learning difficulty or disability is not seen as a barrier to achievement. There is a belief that all pupils can make good progress, whatever their starting point. We encourage pupils to strive constantly to gain independent learning skills and have the courage to take risks and develop personal responsibility to make a successful transition to adulthood. The Code of Practice expects all schools to support pupils with SEND to:

1. achieve their best
2. become confident individuals living fulfilling lives, and

3. make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training

(Code of Practice 6.1)

Inclusive Practice

We believe that having high self-esteem is crucial to children and young people's wellbeing.

At Bury St Edmunds County Upper School, we endeavour to offer all pupils equal opportunities to participate fully in school life, including after-school activities and school trips.

We follow the requirement of the SEN Code of Practice to make 'reasonable adjustments' to the environment, curriculum and timetable; to address all pupils' needs by alleviating substantial disadvantage and being fully compliant with equalities legislation.

This includes a duty on schools to provide auxiliary aids and services to pupils with physical disabilities.

We will ensure that the dignity and modesty of pupils with physical disabilities, requiring personal care, is maintained.

Objectives

Bury St Edmunds County Upper School ensures that teachers receive training and support to be able to identify and, through quality first teaching, provide for those pupils who have SEND. The school has high aspirations of and expectations for all learners. The focus is on improving outcomes for all children and young people.

Key objective – to enable all pupils to participate in lessons fully and effectively.

In order to achieve this, we will:

1. work in partnership with parents/carers who play a fundamental role in enabling children and young people with SEND to be the best they can be.
 - a. The School recognises and values the unique knowledge and experience that parents have which can contribute to a shared understanding of how to meet children and young people's needs.
2. include the views of young people about what sort of help they would like to make the most of their education.
 - a. Pupils will be included in all decision-making processes, reflecting on their learning needs.
3. identify at the earliest opportunity any pupils who are not making expected progress.
 - a. Class and subject teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class

- b. Quality first teaching, differentiated for individual pupils is the first step in responding to those who have or may have special educational needs
- c. The School follows the SEND Code of Practice 2014: 0-25 years' graduated approach with regard to the identification and review of pupils with special educational needs: The four key actions are:
 - i. Assess
 - ii. Plan
 - iii. Do
 - iv. Review
- 4. ensure that all staff receive appropriate training and advice to support quality first teaching and learning for all pupils.
 - a. Special educational provision is underpinned by quality first teaching
 - b. The SENDCO is responsible for providing professional guidance and support to class/subject teachers
 - c. The SENDCO will ensure research-informed, targeted, time limited interventions are in place to address gaps in learning identified by class/subject teachers for those pupils with SEND who are eligible for Pupil Premium.
 - d. The SENDCO is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of interventions, working closely with the PP coordinator to ensure there is a cohesive approach to meeting needs.
- 5. work closely with external support agencies, where appropriate, to support the needs of individual pupils. To comply with the Joint Council for Qualifications requirements, any external assessor, requested by parents to undertake assessments, must liaise with schools if assessments are intended to be used for exam access arrangements.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/582868/Governance Handbook - January 2017.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/582868/Governance_Handbook_-_January_2017.pdf)

Identification, assessment and provision for pupils with special educational needs

Identifying SEN

The School welcomes pupils with or without an Education, Health and Care Plan. We will do our best, in partnership with parents, to meet the special educational needs of all pupils.

A young person may have a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of the same age
 1. *learns significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline*
 2. *fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress*
 3. *fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers*
 4. *widens the attainment gap*

(Code of Practice 6.23)

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 or mainstream post-16 institutions (Code of Practice P4 xiv)

The four broad categories of need identified in the SEN Code of Practice are:

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

Disability and Equality

Some young people who have SEN may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010:

... a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

This definition includes sensory impairments affecting sight, hearing and long-term conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

Bury St Edmunds County Upper School complies with The Children and Families Act 2014 regarding supporting young people with medical conditions. Provision is planned and delivered in accordance with healthcare plans.

English as an Additional Language

Pupils who speak English as an Additional Language are not automatically considered to have a special educational need. National guidelines on expected progress of pupils new to English are used to support the identification of underlying learning difficulties if concerns are raised by teachers and/or parents/carers.

Under-achievement

Bury St Edmunds County Upper School recognises that progress may be affected by factors other than SEND. The School's pastoral support teams are responsible for dealing with day to day concerns.

The School offers formal opportunities for parents/carers to review their children's progress and support arrangements.

Where pupils present with behavioural concerns, the School's holistic approach is to try to identify the underlying causes of the behaviour and then put in place support strategies through the SEND and/or pastoral systems. The School is committed to supporting children and young people to become responsible and resilient.

The wellbeing of pupils is a high priority for the School and staff and external agencies work with individuals and small groups of pupils who are presenting with emotional difficulties which impact on relationships with others and readiness to learn.

Health

The School Nursing service can offer advice/support for pupils where there are health-related concerns. Drop-in sessions are available at the School but also regular appointments can be made. The School Nurses will meet with parents/carers of pupils with medical needs and support the setting up of healthcare plans. Training sessions for staff ensure pupils' support needs are understood, ensuring correct management.

Emotional wellbeing is promoted at Bury St Edmunds County Upper School, with workshops and training offered to staff.

Responsibilities and Resources

The Special Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCO) takes responsibility for the strategic development and day to day operation of the SEND policy and co-ordination of special needs provision, working closely with staff, parents/carers and external agencies. The SENDCO also provides professional guidance to colleagues so that pupils with SEND have full access to the curriculum, ensuring the school is meeting its statutory duties. The SENDCO has the additional responsibility for ensuring all pupils' SEND records are kept up to date.

The headteacher has responsibility for the overall management of provision for all pupils.

The SEND Governor (Mr Malcolm Reeve) has responsibility to meet regularly with the SENDCO. They should then report back to the whole governing body, which has responsibility to ensure policies and procedures meet statutory requirements, and that the school is using SEND funding appropriately.

The duties of the Local Governing Body on behalf of the School are set out in the SEN Code of Practice 2015. (see link below)

Specialisms

County Upper's SENDCO has the National Qualification for SEN Provision. A comprehensive programme of continuing Professional Development is undertaken by all staff working within our SEND team.

Identification, Assessment and Review

The contribution of parents in the identification and initial assessment process cannot be overstated. Parents must have the opportunity to share their knowledge and concerns about their child and they must feel confident that their views and contributions are valued and will be acted upon. (SEN Code of Practice P1.7)

The identification of SEN within Bury St Edmunds County Upper School is through the overall monitoring of progress for all pupils.

The School follows the SEND Code of Practice: 0-25 years' graduated approach with regard to the identification, assessment and review of pupils with special educational needs. The four key actions are:

Assess:

Class/subject teachers are responsible for tracking all learners' progress. Where a pupil is under-performing, a teacher will implement differentiation through teaching and learning strategies and resources. If no progress is evident, the teacher will liaise with the SENDCO to discuss current provision and appropriate interventions. Further differentiation will be applied and continue to be monitored. If, after a second cycle of support has been implemented, there is no or very little progress, the SENDCO will undertake further assessments to identify areas of difficulty. Specialist assessments by external agencies may also be requested.

Plan:

Following assessments (which may include psychometric, norm-referenced assessments), the SENDCO will feed back to teachers and parents. Further strategies for support will be agreed. The pupil will be involved in this process of identifying what helps them to learn best

Do:

The class/subject teachers remain responsible for the progress of all pupils. Where interventions involve group or 1:1 teaching away from the main teacher, he/she still retains responsibility for that pupil's learning. Longer-term progress for all pupils will be tracked by senior members of staff in the School.

Review:

The effectiveness of the support will be reviewed regularly.

All children and young people with complex needs will have a one page profile (pupil passport). This will outline the hopes and aspirations of the pupils, the difficulties the pupils are experiencing, support strategies with statements by the pupils regarding how they are going to help themselves. Targets will be written with the pupil and will be discussed with parents. These will be reviewed regularly, at least three times a year, with pupils and parents to monitor progress.

A Provision Map, outlining all additional support is drawn up by the SENDCO. Provision Maps enable the SENDCO to track interventions across the school and monitor and evaluate the cost and impact of provision.

There are Dyslexia and Autism specialists who can support staff to develop quality first teaching, supporting inclusion and ensuring pupils with literacy needs and communication needs can make good progress.

SEND and Additional Needs Register

All pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan will automatically be placed on the School's SEND register.

Pupils may be placed on the School's SEND register as 'supported' if they present with more complex needs and within-class support has not impacted positively on progress. This will be done in consultation with parents/carers.

Pupils may be placed on the school's 'Additional Needs' register if there are on-going concerns, not necessarily relating to SEND, which all staff should be aware of, where pupils may be at risk of underachievement.

The progress of all pupils on the register is monitored and reviewed regularly. The numbers of pupils who are considered to need support or to have additional needs can change over time.

Education, Health and Care Plans

Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC Plan) have replaced Statements of SEN. (Conversion to EHC Plans from Statements should have been completed by April 2018)

Where, despite action to identify, assess and meet the SEN of a pupil, but the pupil has not made expected progress, the school or parents should consider requesting an Education, Health and Care needs assessment. To inform its decision the local authority will expect to see evidence of the action taken by the school as part of SEN support. (SEN Code of Practice 6.63)

In addition to the schools' usual systems of reporting progress, pupils with an EHC Plan will have an annual review to evaluate outcomes from interventions and other support strategies. Teaching Assistants may attend these reviews along with other invited professionals on a needs basis.

From Y9, our Annual Reviews include a focus on supporting successful preparation for adulthood.

(All Local Authorities must publish their Local Offer, including information on the process for applying for an EHCP, links should be provided on individual academies' websites. Academies should also ensure parents have information about their local SEND Information, Advice and Support Service – SENDIASS)

Transition

Transition into school and at important Key Stage changes can be a time of anxiety for children with SEND and their parents/carers. It is recognised that all transitions offer the opportunity for parents/carers to discuss the needs of their children, and any concerns with the receiving school staff. It is recognised that parents/carers know their children well, and therefore transition is considered and starts with pupils' as they enter one of the four Bury Schools that work together.

- Transition support between years will be offered to all pupils who are particularly anxious or who have complex needs. Parents will also be involved in preparing their children for change. Meetings with the receiving teacher will be offered and resources may be specifically prepared to be shared over the long summer holiday. Transition arrangements will be specific to individual schools.
- At transition in Y9, SATs results and records from a child's previous school are available to staff to enable progression.
- The SENDCOs meet with Year 4/8 teachers and/or SENDCO in all key feeder first and middle schools to gain information about more vulnerable pupils. Additional meetings with parents are welcomed.
- The SENDCO from middle and secondary academies will attend Y4, and Y8 Annual Reviews respectively so that an early relationship with pupil and parents can be built and preparation for the next Key Stage can be planned well in advance – particularly important for children with the most complex needs.

Tracking Progress

The tracking of progress is on-going. Our schools use a coordinated, bespoke programme supplemented by individual assessment systems.

- Class/subject teachers monitor pupils' progress through classwork, homework and assessments – referrals to the SENDCO are made for pupils not making progress despite classroom-based support strategies being put in place.
- In primary, middle and secondary academies standardised assessments, which provide diagnostic information, are carried out in Early Years, KS1, 2 and 3.
- All planned interventions will be monitored for effectiveness in meeting expected outcomes.

Support arrangements

Quality first teaching, appropriately differentiated is the first step in responding to pupils who may or may not have SEN. If pupils do not make progress despite a variety of teaching strategies and approaches being in place, then the SENDCO will undertake additional assessments to identify if pupils have any underlying learning needs.

Following discussion with subject teachers, pupils and parents/carers the most suitable support arrangements will be put in place. This may include Teaching Assistant support. Teaching Assistants work with individuals and small groups on focused learning tasks under the direction of teachers. Teaching Assistants and class/subject teachers will plan support arrangements in advance of lessons, and feedback from interventions will be given. Skills being developed in interventions will be reinforced in class to ensure long-term impact.

In addition to the SENDCO, we have a number of support staff. The role of the Teaching Assistants may differ depending on the diversity of needs of learners. All Teaching Assistants will have access to quality training and many will have developed specialisms.

The Teaching Assistants' role is to help pupils to develop independent learning skills and manage their own learning. Teaching Assistants may be deployed to deliver high-quality one to one and small group support through providing pre and post-teaching opportunities and targeted, time-limited, structured interventions. Teaching Assistants may support teaching staff through making additional resources for individual pupils. Only in very exceptional cases will a Teaching Assistant work with an individual pupil for extended periods during the day. Teaching Assistants will work in partnership with class/subject teachers enabling all learners access to quality first teaching.

Additionally, personal support assistants are trained to provide personal care for pupils with physical disabilities.

Access Arrangements for national curriculum tests/public exams

For public exams in KS4/5, Exam Access Arrangements are put in place for pupils meeting the Joint Council for Qualifications' criteria. The need for Exam Access Arrangements should have been identified well in advance of exams taking place, with the exception of an injury, so that pupils are very familiar with the arrangements. Special Consideration may be given to pupils facing exceptional circumstances occurring during the exam period.

A range of Access Arrangements are available, including the use of a reader, scribe, laptop or having extra time. For some pupils, enlarged papers and voice activated software is provided. For pupils to qualify for Exam Access Arrangements, there must be evidence of a history of need provided by subject teachers. Pupils and parents/carers are asked for consent before requests are made to exam boards. Assessments are carried out by the SENDCO/Specialist Assessor and applications processed by the school's Exams Officer. Access Arrangements are only granted to pupils when this is their 'normal way of working'.

Working with other agencies

We work in partnership with professionals from a range of local agencies – including County Advisory Services, Educational Psychology Services, Health and Social Care - on a needs basis. Speech and Language Therapists may work with pupils in schools. A teaching assistant may attend these sessions to ensure programmes are followed up in the classroom.

ACCESSIBILITY

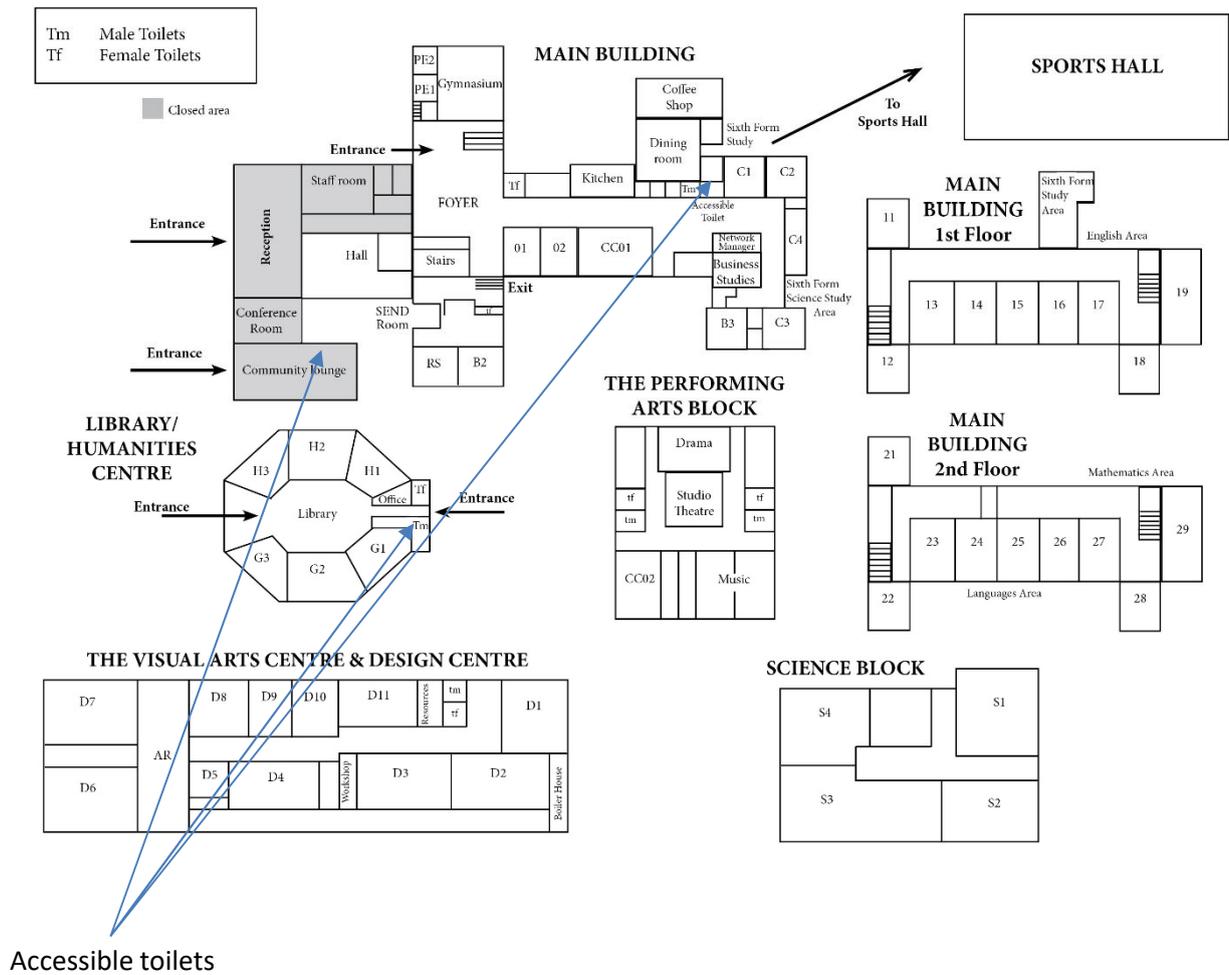
Our Accessibility Plan aims to

- increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school's curriculum
- improve the physical environment of the school in order to help disabled pupils to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the school; and
- improve the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled

Our Accessibility Plan is reviewed regularly. Environmental alterations are made to accommodate pupils with physical and sensory needs. Individual evacuation plans are in place for all wheelchair users.

Manual Handling training is updated regularly for Teaching Assistants and other support staff.

Below is a plan of County Upper School, the whole site is completely accessible for disabled students, staff and parents. Disabled toilet facilities are available. Disabled visitors are shown the plan at reception as necessary. An annual inspection of the site is undertaken to ensure the site remains accessible. There is an instant reporting system to the Premises Manager should anything unforeseen occur which would restrict accessibility.



BEHAVIOUR

Behaviour

Positive behaviour and attendance are essential foundations for a creative and effective learning and teaching environment in which all members of the County Upper community can thrive and feel respected, safe and secure – in a positive climate for learning.

Principles

The Behaviour Policy forms an integral part of their curriculum. It is recognised that it is important to teach values such as respect, fairness and inclusion as well as knowledge and skills. These clear values are reflected in the School’s principles and in the social, moral and religious education programmes and the development of social and emotional aspects of learning.

The highest standards of behaviour and conduct is expected, with support and

encouragement provided from all members of our Partnership communities as we base our teaching and our school ethos on these values, whether in or out of school, at weekends and after school hours.

We appreciate that for some of younger pupils, positive behaviour still needs to be fully developed and we are committed to supporting them to become responsible, resilient, well behaved young people. The behaviour policy include a degree of differentiation in and support given in recognition of our less mature pupils and also for pupils with complex social, communication needs. Autism-friendly practice must be in place, and to support inclusion for these pupils, a 'safe space' should be available to meet sensory needs.

Racial, Religious and Sexual harassment and Bullying

Bury St Edmunds County Upper School promotes equality and eradicates all forms of bullying.

Harassment and bullying will not be tolerated. Adults are advised to follow reporting procedures as outlined in the anti-bullying policy. Sanctions and restorative justice approaches are to be applied as appropriate to the circumstances, and in some cases the police will be contacted.

It is recognised that pupils with SEND can be particularly vulnerable to bullying, and that children with communication difficulties may be unable to recount events. It is important

that parents have confidence these vulnerabilities are considered by staff when dealing with issues of bullying involving pupils with SEND.

COMPLAINTS

Complaints

The Complaints Policy can be found on our website.

There is a clear staged approach to complaints, however we expect that before seeking to use the formal policy the complainant:

- a) will have raised the matter with a relevant member of staff, if the matter relates to a pupil;
- b) will have made reasonable attempts to seek an informal resolution.

The Chair of Governors shall have a discretion, which will be exercised reasonably, not to allow a complaint to be pursued where this precondition has not been met.

Data Protection

Bury St Edmunds County Upper School complies with the GDPR (General Data Protection Requirement) and the Data Protection Act 2018. The GDPR is a piece of EU-wide legislation giving greater rights to individuals over who holds their personal data and how they use it. It will continue to apply after Brexit.

Personal data means information that can identify a living individual.

Each school has a data protection lead and Unity Schools Partnership has a Data Protection Officer (DPO). More detail about our commitment to data protection can be found in the following policies, which are available on the website:

- Combined data protection and freedom of information policy
- Records retention policy
- Pupil privacy notice

Information about someone's physical or mental health or condition is regarded as sensitive personal data and is treated with greater care than other personal data. We may share personal data, including sensitive personal data, with professionals providing services connected with SEND (special educational needs or disabilities) support.

The Data Protection Act gives children rights over their own data, e.g. whether to be photographed or videoed, when they are considered to have adequate capacity to understand. Most children will reach this level of understanding at around age 12. For this reason, for most pupils in a secondary school, it will normally be up to the individual child to decide whether to be photographed or videoed. Where the school considers that the child does not have the capacity to make such a decision the school will act as it considers to be in the best interests of the child and in doing so will take account of any stated parental preference. For more detail please see the photography and video policy, which is available on the School website.

SEN Code of Practice:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf)