



The
Westminster
School



Special Educational Needs Information Report 2020-2021

Safe Happy and Learning Together
*Building foundations and providing
opportunities to create confident,
aspirational and independent members of our
community.*

Approved by Governing Body:
Signed by Chair of Governors:
Head Teacher:
Lead Personnel:
Date of Review:

15 December 2020

B. Gough

O Flowers

G Webb

15 December 2021

1. Rationale

The Westminster School caters for pupils with moderate learning difficulties, plus additional needs, for pupils aged 7-19 years.

We offer our pupils a broad and balanced curriculum, whilst aiming to meet their individual special educational needs. The School is committed to equal opportunities and all pupils are expected to leave School with accredited qualifications. Preparation for life takes on a prominent role as pupils progress through school. At all times they are expected to work and behave responsibly, showing respect and consideration for others.

The Westminster School aims to provide all of its students with high quality teaching and learning. All of our students have additional needs that may fall into one or more of four main categories:

- communication and interaction
- cognition and learning
- emotional, social and mental health
- sensory and physical

This information report sets out the support we give these students in order to enable them to experience the greatest possible level of success.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 To enable all students, whatever their additional needs, to be as fully integrated as possible into the life of this School.
- 2.2 To provide a range of programmes and pathways to support the needs of students.
- 2.3 To monitor the progress of students against clear targets for improvement in order to ensure that these targets are achieved.
- 2.4 To ensure that the arrangements for assessment, recording and review of Students with additional needs are fully compliant with statutory requirements.
- 2.5 To ensure that resources allocated are being used for the benefit of students with additional learning needs and that they are being deployed in an efficient and effective manner.

3. Integration and Access

- 3.1 All students are taught in ways which:
 - set suitable learning challenges
 - respond to students' diverse learning needs

- overcome potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of students.
- 3.2 The curriculum will be differentiated to meet the needs of individual students. Teaching styles and flexible groups will reflect this approach.
- 3.3 All students are subject to the same whole School approach to behaviour management based on clearly communicated expectations and the application of rewards as appropriate. This approach is applied flexibly and sensitively to the individual circumstances of all students.
- 3.5 The School is fully accessible to those with physical disabilities.

4. Implementation and Monitoring

- 4.1 The Deputy Head and SENCo are responsible for the oversight of links with external agencies.
- 4.2 The Deputy Head and SENCo are responsible for maintaining effective links with specialist providers such as Inclusion Support. Such providers are an important source of advice in working with students and students may be referred to them for more specialist support.
- 4.3 We want all parents and carers to be active partners in their children's education. Pastoral and Learning Support staff are responsible for making sure that parents and carers of students are fully informed of all issues relating to provision and the progress students make as a result. In particular:
- Parents and carers are aware of the expected outcomes for their child based on the contents of their Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) and offered the opportunity to discuss the provision made.
 - Parents and carers are actively encouraged to attend the parents evenings to monitor their children's progress and review the EHCP Outcomes as appropriate
 - Parents and carers of students with EHCPs are always invited to take part in the annual review of the plan through invitations to the support and outcome planning meeting.
 - Parents are given information about the support which is available from the SENDIASS service.
 - Parents are invited to raise any concerns they have over any aspect of SEN provision with the SENCo, or if these informal discussions do not resolve the issue, to make a formal complaint using the School complaints protocols.
 - Parents are included in supporting their child when transferring between phases of education, preparing for adulthood and independent living.

- 4.4 The SENCo is responsible for ensuring that a review of each child's Education, Health and Care plan takes place on an annual basis and that appropriate agencies are involved in this review.
- 4.5 The Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the line management of all support staff. As part of the regular performance management arrangements for these staff, their training needs will be identified and included in the school CPD programme.
- 4.6 The Pathway Leads are responsible for ensuring that there is effective liaison between the learning support team and class teachers. One outcome of this liaison is the identification of any training which subject staff require. This information is passed to the School Continuous Professional Development co-ordinator in order to enable them to provide effectively differentiated courses to meet the range of student needs.
- 4.7 The SENCo is responsible for ensuring that Pastoral staff have details of student's additional needs and of the provision made for them and that they are equipped to play an active role in monitoring the provision made.
- 4.8 The Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the deployment of staffing and other resources in order to meet students' additional needs.
- 4.9 The Pathway Leads are responsible for monitoring and responding to the pastoral care of students. They are supported by a team of form tutors who monitor the day to day wellbeing of students at the school.
- 4.10 The Local Authority is responsible for the regular monitoring of arrangements for those with Education, Health and Care plans.
- 4.11 The Head Teacher is responsible for making annual reports to the governing body to enable them to assess the effectiveness of the report. The information to be included in these reports will be agreed between the Head Teacher and the governor with responsibility for SEN.
- 4.12 The governor with responsibility for SEN has a specific role in interpreting these reports to the governing body and identifying any issues which require further discussion or action. Such discussion will normally take place at the Performance Committee of which the governor with responsibility for SEN will always be a member.
- 4.13 The governing body is responsible for reporting to parents and carers about the effectiveness of the SEN information report, any changes to the report and the allocation of resources to and among students with SEN.

5. Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions

- 5.1 The School recognises that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Some children with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

- 5.2 Some may also have special educational needs and may have an Education, Health and Care plan which brings together health and social care needs.
- 5.3 Staff responsible for administering medication have completed additional training specific to this role.

6. Activities outside the School classroom

- 6.1 Students will have the opportunity to participate in activities outside of the classroom. These activities will vary depending on curriculum programmes and age. Activities could include swimming, Forest Schools, college placement and work experience placement. Lunchtime clubs will also be offered. Participation in these clubs will be subject to staffing levels and may be run on a rota basis.
- 6.2 Parents will be notified of activities available for their child and will need to give permission for activities outside of the school premises to take place.

7. Specialist services accessed by the School

- 7.1 The School accesses a range of specialist services to support students' needs. Such services include, but are not exclusive to;
 - Educational Psychologist
 - Speech and Language therapy
 - Occupational therapy
 - Physiotherapy
 - Visual impaired/Hearing impaired teachers
 - Complex Communication and Autism Team
 - Connexions
 - Therapeutic services (Drama Therapy, Creative Therapy, Music Therapy)

8. Training and Continuing Professional Development

- 8.1 All staff participate in training and development sessions across the academic year to enable them to support children with special educational needs.
- 8.2 External training providers are used regularly to train staff in specialist areas such as Autism, Positive Behaviour Support and Communication.

9. Complaints procedure

Sometimes misunderstandings can arise and parents may feel that they wish to register a complaint about the way that their child's Special Educational Needs are being met. The School has a clear complaints procedure which is outlined below:

Step A: The parent/guardian asks to meet with the SENCo to discuss their concerns.

Step B: If they are still not satisfied with the response they have received contact should be made with the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher will either meet with the complainants or arrange a meeting with another member of the Leadership Team.

If there is still dissatisfaction, the complainant should utilise the School Compliment and Complaints Policy at an appropriate level.

10. Useful links

Advice and guidance from other agencies can be accessed from:

- Sandwell SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SEND IASS) - 0121 500 4010
- Independent Travel Training - www.sandwell.gov.uk
- Autism West Midlands - www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk
- Changing Our Lives - www.changingourlives.org

In addition, Sandwell has published their local offer which can be accessed at <https://fis.sandwell.gov.uk/kb5/sandwell/directory/localoffer.page>