

Newcastle Academy

Learning Support SEND Information Report

The SEND Information Report provides information for parents/carers of children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and all those who support children and young people with additional needs. This information outlines the support and provision they can expect to receive if they choose Sir Newcastle Academy for their children.

Newcastle Academy is part of the Windsor Academy Trust and has long had a reputation as a caring school where our high expectation of students contributes much to the outstanding public examination results that we regularly achieved. We place a high emphasis on good academic performance for all, as well as firmly support traditional attitudes such as good behaviour and high attendance. Ofsted reports for the school warmly praised our achievements describing us as a school which “identifies effectively pupils who need additional support. ‘Personalised plans’ are in place to help all pupils with SEND make progress in their learning in line with their peers. Staff know these pupils well and plan lessons to remove any barriers to learning”.

We are a compact school giving our young people all the advantages of a small community but still offer the wide opportunities available in larger institutions. Parents from outside our traditional 'catchment' are advised to make an early application either through their child's current Primary School or directly to Newcastle Academy. We aim quite simply to create a warm and happy environment in which all children can achieve their full potential. Each individual child is valued, challenged and developed. The school is positive, relaxed and orderly without being repressive, and visitors comment on the unfailing politeness and good manners of the students.

We aim to support our pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities by offering an inclusive curriculum which allows them to achieve their full potential. Within the Learning Support Department, we work to identify areas of need, create a plan of action which supports the child and their teachers, and we follow this with a review to establish progress made. We have a team of Teaching Assistants with a wealth of experience who are used to support our pupils with SEND and who collaborate with pupils, teachers, parents and outside agencies (where appropriate) to ensure that our pupils are supported during their time at Sir Newcastle Academy.

How does the school know if a pupil needs extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

‘A child or young person has SEND if they have 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 if he or she:

- Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than many 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.’

(Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 0-25 years, June 2014)

A student may be identified as having a Special Educational Need or Disability at any stage during their education. This may be a long-term difficulty requiring continuing support or a short-term difficulty requiring a specific intervention.

In order to identify special educational needs, the Learning Support Department gathers information from a variety of sources. These include:

- Screening tests for reading and spelling
- CATS testing in year 7.
- WRAT5
- Baseline assessment data, carried out in the first weeks of year 7.
- Information from our feeder schools is shared in annual review/transition meetings in both years 5 and 6.
- Parental concerns can be raised at any time through your child's tutor, Head of Year, Assistant SENCO and Director of Inclusion.
- Year 7 'Settling In' evening is an excellent time to raise concerns regarding SEND.
- Referrals from teachers/pastoral team and head of year.
- Information provided by an Educational Psychologist or other professional assessments

The Learning Support team gather information from our feeder schools prior to your child's arrival in year 7. We also invite parents to contact the school and arrange a meeting with the Assistant SENCO to discuss their child's needs prior to them starting in September (or at any other time). The Director of Inclusion and/or Assistant SENCO attends the annual review and transition meetings of years 5 and 6 pupils to improve transition between the key stages.

How will the school staff support my child?

Primarily we promote quality first teaching. Our teaching staff plan and deliver the curriculum, which is differentiated to meet the needs of individual pupils. This may include additional support from our teaching assistants and the Learning Support Department.

To support learners with special educational needs we adopt a graduated approach (Assess, Plan, Do, Review). An Individual Education Plan (**IEP**) is created for your child. This is a document which includes the identified areas where support is needed, detailed strategies to be used by those involved with the child, teachers, teaching assistants, parents and any other outside agencies that may be involved and records the progress made by your child. Your child's IEP will be an on-going document that will be reviewed three times a year by teaching staff and discussed with parents and their child's key worker.

Our SEN Governor is regularly kept up to date with SEND information.

Teaching staff rigorously track the progress of every pupil throughout the year. Parents receive reports showing attainment information across all subjects.

Pupil progress is also tracked through screening tests for reading and spelling. The Director of Inclusion, Assistant SENCO and teaching staff monitor the progress of our SEND pupils, raise issues and plan interventions in collaboration with pupils and parents.

How will the curriculum be matched to the needs of my child?

We offer an inclusive curriculum. Teaching staff use prior attainment data and information from the Learning Support Team documented in the learners IEP, allowing them to plan and deliver effective lessons, ensuring all SEND learners can access the curriculum and achieve their potential. In addition to bespoke interventions they also work alongside pupils with SEND in lessons as directed by the teaching staff.

How will the school know how well my child is doing?

Teaching staff track pupil progress throughout the year. Firstly, staff monitor the progress being made by pupils in every lesson using a broad range of assessments for learning techniques. Pupils' work is regularly assessed, and written feedback is provided, detailing areas to improve. Regular, more formal assessments take place which focus on specific skills.

Individual Education Plans are reviewed three times a year to build a picture of your child's progress against areas of difficulty identified on their plan.

How will I know how well my child is doing in school?

Each year you will receive a report keeping you up to date on how well your child is doing in school. This gives you the opportunity to make comments on their progress. We also host parents' evenings once a year, for each year group. In addition, there are also SEND drop-ins, with your child's key worker, three times a year where parents are invited to discuss academic progress being made along with progress in other areas as specified in their Individual Education Plan. These are times when you will receive feedback on your child's progress and are an opportunity to discuss any concerns. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's progress throughout the year, your first port of call should be your child's tutor.

The Learning Support Department operates an open phone policy, where parents of pupils with SEND are welcome to call and discuss their child's progress with the Director of Inclusion/ or Assistant SENCO. Parents are welcome to e-mail the Director of Inclusion or Assistant SENCO with any concerns or questions at any time.

What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?

Each pupil is part of a form group. Your child's form tutor (a member of the teaching staff) plays a pivotal role in supporting their overall wellbeing in school.

Members of staff also supporting your child include the Teaching staff, Teaching Assistants, SENCO, Heads of Year and School Nurse.

We offer support before school, at breaktime and lunchtime, where pupils can access pastoral support and through our lunchtime and after-school homework clubs.

There are several sports and other clubs running through lunchtimes and afterschool which are open to all pupils including those with SEND.

Pupils with medical needs

If a pupil has a significant medical need, then an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) is compiled in consultation with parents/carers. These are shared with all staff involved with the pupil and are centrally available to all staff. Staff receive regular Asthma and EpiPen training. Where necessary and in agreement with parents/carers medicines are administered centrally in school where they are securely kept with access to a refrigerator if necessary. We have trained first aiders in school, these are in a variety of departments, and all have the same 'First Aid at Work' qualification.

What support is there for behaviour?

The school has a clear Behaviour policy with rewards, sanctions and expectations within the school which all staff and pupils are expected to follow. The Pastoral team, behaviour support unit, school counselor and Learning Support Team provide individual support and guidance for pupils who may be showing behaviour of concern to address the issues which may be the triggers to the behaviour.

The school works positively with external agencies. It seeks appropriate support from them to ensure that the needs of all pupils are met by utilising the range of external support available.

How will my child be able to contribute his or her views?

Pupils are involved in our regular pupil voice surveys, including a specific SEND student voice survey. We have a school council, elected by pupils which meet on a regular basis. Pupils will also work with their key worker to discuss their learning needs to create an Individual Support Plan, which is a supportive document, shared with teaching and pastoral staff to support their positive learning experience.

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

Our Teaching Assistants have a wealth of experience in working with children with general learning difficulties, Dyslexia, Autism, Sensory impairment and behavioural difficulties. We have a school counsellor.

At times it is necessary to access support from outside agencies. These agencies include:

Autism Outreach Team	SENS (ENTRUST)	CAMHS	VI Team/VI team
Educational Psychologist	EWO	School Nurse	Entrust Careers Service

[Staffordshire's Local Offer](#) gives a broader range of services available across the county. For parents living across the border in Cheshire [Cheshire's Local Offer](#) details their services.

How will my child be included in activities outside of the classroom, including school trips?

We offer an inclusive education and as part of this a wide range of trips and educational visits are offered throughout the year. These are open to all pupils. The support of pupils with additional needs are planned for and included in the preparations, such as risk assessments or changes to the ratio of staff support.

Teaching Assistants are used to support pupils with SEND where appropriate. There is also a wide range of inclusive extracurricular activities on offer .

How accessible is the school environment?

At present our school is not fully wheelchair accessible. Changes have been made to the fabric of the school to improve the accessibility of the school to visually impaired pupils. Where additional equipment not already accessible in the school is needed, further advice would be sought to improve access. Disabled toilets can be found on the ground floor of the main building.

How does the school communicate with parents/carers whose first language is not English?

In these circumstances the school seeks the services of an interpreter through [Staffordshire MEAS \(Minority Ethnic Achievement Service\)](#).

How will the school prepare and support my child when they join Newcastle Academy?

The Director of SEND and/or Assistant SENCO attend annual review and transition meetings in years 5 and 6.

All pupils joining our school in September for the first time are offered two taster days where pupils can experience the school day and meet and work with their peers. These take place in the final weeks of the summer term. For those pupils with SEND additional visits are offered where appropriate. Some of our staff are involved in working within our feeder schools delivering lessons and building relationships with pupils.

How will the school prepare and support my child as they transfer to a new school or to the next stage of education and life?

Throughout KS4 we prepare pupils for the transition to employment, training or further education. In year 10 all pupils take part in two weeks of work experience. Year 11 pupils attend a mock interview evening, hosted by the school with support from outside professionals. We host a college open evening (KS5 Evening) where representatives from local colleges offer advice and information to prospective students.

Year 11 students are supported by the Learning Support Team with college applications and preparation for interviews. The Director of SEND and Assistant SENCO Liaise with the career's team.

The Learning Support Team passes on relevant SEN information if a child moves away from their current setting.

How are the school's resources allocated and matched to children's special educational needs?

The SEN budget is allocated each financial year. The money is used to provide additional support or resources depending on an individual's need. The additional provision may be allocated following discussion with relevant teaching staff or within the creation of an **IEP**. These resources include the deployment of support staff.

How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

In order to assess the level of need of a pupil with SEN we use data and information from the previous setting, combined with our own screening and data tracking. This is in conjunction with pupil, parent and teacher discussions along with consultation and referral from outside agencies. We then use a graduated approach to establish the best way forward.

We always meet the statutory requirements when working with pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans.

How will/can I be involved in the school?

All parents are encouraged to contribute to their child's education. This may be through:

- Discussions with the class teacher during parent's evenings.
- Involvement in the planning of an Individual Support Plan.
- Parents are invited to comment on their child's reports.
- Attendance at SEN Parent meetings.

Who can I contact for further information?

Pastoral issues or general questions about your child's progress can be answered by your child's form tutor. They can be contacted using the school's number 01782 729400.

Attainment, progress or any general concerns or questions concerning pupils can be discussed with the Director of Inclusion/Head of Learning Support/House Leaders or directly with their subject teacher.

In addition to the information given here, Staffordshire has produced its own 'Local Offer' which can be found at [Staffordshire's Local Offer](#) or [Cheshire's Local Offer](#)

Terms and Acronyms:

Graduated approach:

This is aimed at producing a structure where progress against short term goals can be made and reviewed. The first step would be to assess the need, the second would be to plan a course of action, the third would be to put this action plan in place and finally, following an agreed timescale this would be reviewed. There would be an on-going cycle of assess, plan, do and review.

Director of Inclusion:

Our Director of Inclusion is Mrs Bromley-Smith. She can be contacted by phone using the school's number 01782 729406 or via e-mail at nbromley-smith@newcastle.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

[MEAS \(Minority Ethnic Achievement Service\)](#)

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