

Leamington Vineyard Learning Centre

Special Educational Needs, Disability and Inclusion Policy

Please note link to Warwickshire's Local Offer at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/send

Please refer also to LVLC's "SEN Information report" on LVLC's website.

Compliance

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (2015) and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013 – including students with Disabilities
- Children and Families Act (2014)
- SEN and Disability Code of Practice – September 2014
- Schools SEN Information Report (2015)
- Supporting Pupils at school with Medical conditions (Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014)

Definitions of SEND

The following definition is taken from Section 20 of the Children and Families Act 2014:

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they: have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or

have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions

Children must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught.

The following definition is taken from the Equality Act 2010:

A person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment which has substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Learning difficulties are themselves identified within the areas of:

- cognition and learning;
- communications and interaction;
- behaviour, emotional and social development;
- sensory and/or physical.

Aim and Principles

It is the aim of LVLC to enable all teachers in all subjects to meet the needs of all students so as to enable all students to make progress.

The SEN Policy is based on several principles and beliefs:

- That LVLC recognises and values diversity amongst its students;
- All students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum alongside their peers;
- SEN involves all staff, including the SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator);
- That students' needs can be met most effectively when subject teachers, learning support staff, parents and support agencies are carefully co-ordinated to result in joint working.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Principal along with the LVLC Leadership has overall responsibility for the school's general policy and approach to meeting students' special educational needs and will oversee provision. The Principal and Deputy will undertake responsibility for implementation of the policy.

The role of 'SENCo' will be taken by the Principal. They are responsible for developing effective ways of overcoming barriers to learning and ensuring that teaching is at least 'good' and effective. The SENCo will coordinate liaison with parents/carers and other professionals regarding the specified needs of individual students. This will include overseeing the collection and recording of data and the use of IEPs. At the end of the student's programme the Principal will ensure that a smooth transition takes place and that all relevant information is communicated effectively.

All staff are expected to set effective targets for students which will be monitored by the SENCo. All teachers are teachers of students with SEN and have responsibility for them; the SENCo provides help and advice to support colleagues in these whole staff responsibilities.

All students within the school community are encouraged to support; value and help each other, thus playing their part in the inclusion of all.

Admissions Arrangements

The admission arrangements for all pupils are in accordance with national legislation, including the Equality Act 2010. This includes children with any level of SEN.

Where appropriate upon transition and admission to LVLC, children with identified needs will be supported through liaison with parents, a students' school and other support agencies.

LVLC's Whitnash Centre has ground floor access. LVLC's Christ Church centre has a disabled access with lifts to the first floor. LVLC's centres at St John's and Holy Trinity have disabled access. LVLC's centre in Rugby has disabled access and all lessons are held on the ground floor.

LVLC will work in partnership with students' schools and/or the LA with regard to accessibility for students on a case-by-case basis.

SEN Provision

During the referral process, the individual needs of all students will be identified through the initial interview and through the exchange of information with the referrer and others involved with the student. The Principal/Deputy will discuss with the referrer, parent/carer, student and any other relevant agencies the exact day-to-day impact of the needs identified.

LVLC will participate in and encourage a graduated response to SEND provision: assess, plan, do, review. LVLC will work in partnership with students' schools and external agencies to ensure provision is in place.

At LVLC, students will be supported in a variety of ways, through:

- Individual 1:1 teaching and a personalised learning programme, enabling staff to respond to students needs as they arise;
- Work with learning support services and other outside professionals;
- 1:1 reading practice with staff or volunteers;
- Break time support to meet social needs;
- Withdrawal from an appropriate part of the timetable for individual programmes;
- Help with study skills;
- Reasonable adjustments in exams if eligible under exam board criteria, eg. additional time, readers, separate invigilation.

Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

Using information gathered through the admissions process and through initial assessments, LVLC will work with the student, referrer, parent/carer and other relevant agencies to draw up an

Individual Education Plan (IEP) that sets out strategies for students' progress. This constitutes a record of students' strengths, needs and strategies to address the individual needs including:

- Strengths and individual student profile;
- Needs and difficulties experienced by the student;
- Type and level of need eg. ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder), SPLD (Specific Learning Difficulty), Physical Disability, MLD (Moderate Learning Difficulty), SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties);
- Provision in place including LVLC, school and outside agency support;
- Strategies to address and provide for the needs of the student;
- Short term targets individualised for the student's needs;
- Success/exit criteria;
- Date for review;
- Outcomes recorded at review.

IEPs will be developed by LVLC through liaison with students' schools and outside agencies, and, where appropriate, parents. It is the responsibility of all LVLC staff to refer to them to aid their lesson planning. The IEP will record only that which is different from or additional to the normal differentiated curriculum requirements.

Where a student has a Statement of SEN, or individual Education and Health Care Plan (EHC Plan), special consideration will be given to the special educational provision considered necessary to meet the learner's needs set out within it. LVLC will need to liaise and plan carefully with the referrer to ensure that these requirements are being met. Students with a Statement of SEN or EHC Plan will have short term targets set for them, which have been established after consultation with parents/carers, referrers, and student based on the targets identified in the statement or EHC Plan. These targets and identified interventions will be set out in the IEP and be implemented by staff in the normal classroom setting as far as possible.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Particular care will be needed with students whose first language is not English. Teachers will closely follow their progress to ascertain whether any problems arise from uncertain command of English or from SEN. It will be necessary to assess their proficiency in English before planning any additional support that might be required. LVLC will work with students' and external agencies to ensure that EAL students receive the correct level of support with regard to EAL.

Gifted and Talented

Gifted and talented students often have other learning needs, whether specific or behavioural, meaning they are often disinclined or unable to perform to their maximum potential, sometimes resulting in exclusion.

Examples may include:

- Good verbal skills often with extensive appropriate vocabulary, but poor writing skills;
- High achievement in one area only;
- Ability to achieve above average, but due to low motivation is not currently achieving;
- Good academic ability but poor interpersonal skills.

One of LVLC's primary aims is to 'address the individual social, emotional and learning needs of young people and develop their self-esteem' therefore this includes those students who are identified as being gifted and talented.

Staff Training

All staff are encouraged to attend courses that help them to acquire the skills needed to work with SEND pupils. Part of the SENCO's role is to develop awareness of resources and practical teaching procedures for use with SEND pupils. All staff follow an induction program and there is continual training in partnership with the Local Authority for all staff.

Partnership with Parents

LVLC firmly believes in developing a strong partnership with parents and that this will enable children and young people with SEN to achieve their potential. LVLC recognises that parents have a unique overview of the child's needs and how best to support them, and that this gives them a key role in the partnership.

Links with External Agencies

LVLC recognises the important contribution that external support services make in assisting to identify, assess and provide for, SEN students. Most of the students come to LVLC with a team of professionals already engaged in their programme, and LVLC is committed to working closely with such professionals. This includes:

- Educational Psychologists;
- Early Help (previously CAF - Common Assessment framework);
- COMPASS: eg. School Health Advisors;
- Integrated Disability Service (IDS);
- Education Social Worker;
- Careers and guidance;
- Health and Social services;
- Early Intervention Service;
- RISE (formerly known as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS));
- The Virtual School - LAC (Education of Looked After Children).

When a student is identified as having difficulties that have not previously been recognised, we will contact the commissioner and set up appropriate assessment whether with CAMHS, an Educational Psychologist, a dyslexia specialist and any other appropriate agency, and encourage that an Early Help (previously CAF) is undertaken.

Evaluating the success of provision

In order to make consistent continuous progress in relation to SEN provision LVLC encourages feedback from staff, parents and students during the academic year. Provision is regularly reviewed by gathering information from staff, students, parents/carers and commissioners. Raising achievement and attainment of all students will be monitored and evaluated through:

- External inspections
- School reviews
- Academic results for SEN students
- Tracking progress for SEN students
- All on-going assessment data for SEN students
- Feedback from parent/carers, students, staff and commissioners

Complaints Procedure

The SENCO is available to discuss with parents and listen to any concerns they may have. If parents feel that their concerns are not being addressed then they may follow the school's complaints procedure. A full copy of LVLC's Complaints Policy and procedure can be downloaded from LVLC's website.

The SEN Code of Practice outlines additional measures the LA must set up for preventing and resolving disagreements.