

The Aylesbury Vale Academy Trust



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RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

Policy Reference:	AVA.042	
Description:	This document sets out how the Academy Trust intends to meet the individual and additional needs of students through personalised programme of study	
Status:	Statutory Policy	
Policy Audience:	Students & Parents/Carers	
Academy Trust Contact:	Academy Principal/Primary Headteacher/Secondary Headteacher	
Other related AVA policies and procedures:	Equality Policy, Accessibility Policy & Plan	
Governor Committees:	Governing Body	
Approved by the Governing Board on:	15.09.2026	
Latest Date for Next Review:	15.09.2027	
Version + Schedule of Amendments:	V2 15.01.19 V3 05.04.19 V4 08.05.19 V5 04.05.20 V6 13.5.20	V7 26.04.21 V8 11.05.22 V9 10.03.23 V10 18.09.2024 V11 05.09.2025
Signed:		
Date of Signature:	15.09.2027	

In reviewing this policy, the Governing Board has had regard to the Equality Act 2010 and carried out an equality impact assessment. It is satisfied that no group with a protected characteristic will be unfairly disadvantaged by this policy.

We value every student and recognise their entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum. Our role is to meet the individual needs of all students through a personalised provision so that each individual is able to achieve their potential.

OBJECTIVES

Our objectives are:

- To be an inclusive Academy Trust where all students are held in equal and positive regard
- To facilitate high levels of achievement for all students, enabling them to be prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- To take reasonable measures to overcome barriers to learning
- To identify students with SEND at the earliest possible opportunity
- To meet individual needs through a wide range of provision, including quality first teaching, support from Learning Support assistants, targeted intervention and individual or small group teaching
- To support Academy trust staff to carry out their responsibilities for the delivery of a differentiated curriculum to meet the diverse needs of our students, including the identification and facilitation of training needs. This is subject to regular quality assurance and appropriate professional development where necessary
- To regularly review the needs of students with SEND and those who are being monitored for further evidence of potential underlying need
- To involve families/carers and children in support arrangements, and in the reviewing process, to obtain high levels of impact and develop open dialogue with families
- To put students with SEND at the centre of planning for provision, enabling them to view measures positively and allow full and positive engagement

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF SEND PROVISION

The Academy Principal and Governing Body have delegated the responsibility for the day-to-day co-ordination of SEND provision to the Assistant Principal (Inclusion and Academy SENDCo). In accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations, SENDCos appointed from 1 September 2024 are required to achieve the mandatory National Professional Qualification (NPQ) for SENDCos within three years of appointment. Our SENDCo holds the NASENCO qualification

The Assistant Principal (AP) is Mr. B. Currier. He is responsible for co-ordinating:

- The day-to-day operation of this policy
- The provision for students with SEND
- Liaison with and advising of teachers
- The management of staff in the SEND department
- Oversight of the records of all students with SEND
- Liaison with parents/carers of students with SEND
- Contributions to the in-service training of staff
- Liaison with external agencies, including the LA support and educational psychology services, health and social services and voluntary organisations

A governor has responsibility for overseeing this area and liaising with the AP (SEND) and Principal. The SEND Governor is Robyn Scott.

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

In line with the SEN and Disability Code of Practice 2014, we will not discriminate against students with a disability or special educational need and will take all reasonable steps to ensure effective educational provision.

For more detailed information on admissions, please refer to the Academy Trust's admissions policy.

FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Aylesbury Vale Academy Trust's admissions policy has due regard for the guidance in the SEN and Disability Code of Practice 2014. The Academy moved to its new site in September 2013 and is fully accessible for students with mobility difficulties.

IDENTIFICATION OF SEND

Criteria for inclusion/removal from SEND register:

Students may be considered for inclusion on the SEND register for the following reasons:

- Sustained slow progress despite quality first teaching (2 data trawls minimum)
- Working at a level significantly below average age-related progress
- Diagnosis of a specific learning need requiring support in addition to ordinarily available provision
- Social, emotional and mental health concerns
- a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities

Students will be considered for removal from the SEND register if:

- They are making sustained and rapid progress without additional support

In both instances, communication will be made with both students and their parents/carers.

Individual and additional educational needs encompass students with special educational needs and disability (SEND), those with English as an additional language (EAL).

Student needs are identified by gathering information from a variety of sources.

This is most likely, but not limited to, transfer between phases e.g. the primary phase to the secondary phase or from the nursery phase to the primary phase.

Additional sources of information may include:

- Concerns/recommendations from subject teachers and/ or pastoral teams
- Concerns/recommendations from families/carers
- Information from previous schools
- Information from outside agencies
- Tracking data
- Parents/carers
- Students

This information is used:

- To identify students with SEND
- To design appropriate support programmes
- To inform teachers in their planning of high quality lessons

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Students with English as an Additional Language are not regarded as having SEND solely because English is not their first language. The Academy Trust will carefully distinguish between language acquisition needs and special educational needs. Where there is uncertainty about the learning needs of an individual, the Academy Trust will look carefully at all aspects of a student's performance across the curriculum to establish whether the challenges faced in the classroom are due to limitations in their current proficiency in their development of their English language skills or are related to an underlying special educational need.

PROVISION

Provision for students with individual and additional educational needs is a matter for all staff employed by the Academy Trust.

All teachers are teachers of students with individual and additional educational needs.

Student progress is a whole-school responsibility, requiring a whole-school approach. Central to the work of every class teacher and every curriculum area is a continuous cycle of planning, teaching, assessment and evaluation that takes account of the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests of the students. The majority of students will learn and progress within these parameters. However, for some students there may be a need to provide an enhanced level of provision that supports continued learning and progression.

GRADUATED RESPONSE

The Academy Trust adopts a graduated response to provision for special educational needs; this requires the initial use of classroom and school resources before referring to specialist expertise to explore the challenges that the student is experiencing. When a student is identified as having a special educational need that is impacting their continued progression, the Academy Trust will intervene with appropriate measures. Parents/carers will be informed and involved in decision-making when a student is identified as requiring SEND Support and placement on the SEND register and allocated a key worker who will work with them to set appropriate targets designed to facilitate continued progress and close any gap between them and their peers. The Academy Trust follows the graduated approach outlined in the SEND Code of Practice through an ongoing cycle of Assess, Plan, Do, Review. Decisions regarding provision are evidence-based and reviewed regularly in partnership with students, parents/carers and relevant professionals.

REQUESTING AN EDUCATION HEALTH AND CARE NEEDS PLAN ASSESSMENT

For a few students (6% Nationally), the support that can be offered sustainably within the Academy Trust may not be sufficient to enable the student to make adequate progress. It may then be necessary for the Academy Trust, in consultation with the families/carers and any external agencies already involved, to consider initiating the Education and Health Care plan

assessment process. Where a request for such an assessment is made to a Local Authority, the student will have demonstrated significant cause for concern despite reasonable measures in place to support their progression.

The Academy Trust will be required to provide written evidence to the LA detailing:

- The Academy Trust's provision to date
- Individual Provision Maps for the student
- Records of regular reviews and their outcomes
- The student's health, including medical history where relevant
- Attainment, progress and assessment information
- Educational and other assessments, for example from an advisory specialist support teacher or an educational psychologist
- Views of the families/carers
- Views of the student
- Involvement of other professionals
- Any involvement by the social services or education welfare service

An EHC assessment involves consideration by the LA, working co-operatively with families/carers, the school and, as appropriate, other agencies. A child may be brought to the LA's attention as possibly requiring an assessment through a request by the child's school, from a parent/carer, or a referral by another agency.

The LA may decide that the degree of the student's learning need and the level of the provision necessary is significant and will qualify the child's special educational provision through an Education Health and Care Plan. If the LA decides that an Education Health and Care Plan is required, then the Academy will work with the LA to prepare the plan and work towards achieving the agreed outcomes of the plan. These are reviewed annually (3-6 monthly in Early Years Foundation Stage).

Parents are also entitled to initiate this process. The Academy advises that such intentions are communicated with the SENDCo for support and guidance however, this is not an obligation.

Further information can be found here:

<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/send/education-and-send/education-health-and-care-plans/>

Parents may feel that mainstream provision is not appropriate for their child. In these cases, evidence must be presented to the LA evidencing that the child's learning difficulties are significant, long term and have not responded to relevant and purposeful intervention or input from external specialists, it may be necessary to consider a specialist educational provision.

THE SEND REGISTER

The SEND register identifies those students with Special Educational Needs. It is maintained by the AP (Academy SENDCo).

'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)'.

ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

All subjects currently deliver the National Curriculum to students of all abilities, including students with SEND and EAL, using data, Individual provision maps, support plans and assessment for learning.

The Academy Trust is committed to ensuring that high-quality ordinarily available provision is accessible to all students and that reasonable adjustments are implemented before considering more specialist interventions.

ASSESSMENT SUPPORT/ EXAM CONCESSIONS

All students with SEND have access to support, as identified and appropriate. For assessment at each Key Stage, it may be appropriate to award a student concession. The AP (SENDCo), with the School Examinations Officer and the Specialist Teaching Service ensure that the appropriate examination concessions are granted, where appropriate, for those students at KS1, KS2, KS3, KS4 and KS5.

These concessions must not put students at an unfair advantage in their exams and may include, but are not limited to, rest breaks, a prompter, an amanuensis, a reader, use of modified exam papers, language modifier, use of a word processor (IT), and/or extra time.

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

The SEND department is resourced from the Academy Trusts delegated SEND budget. This budget is determined by the level of identified SEND need within the Academy Trust in the Census. Further funding for some students is provided by the LA and should be allocated accordingly in order to ensure that those students are able to meet agreed targets.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES/CARERS AND INVOLVEMENT OF STUDENTS

We recognise and value the crucial role that families/carers play in the education of their children. We seek to work in partnership with families/carers and take account of their perspectives, knowledge and experience of their child's development.

In order to fulfil their role in their child's education, families/carers need to be well informed, with clear information.

Students with an identified SEND often have a unique knowledge of their own needs and their views about what sort of help they would like to help them make the most of their education will be sought wherever possible. They will be encouraged to participate in the decision-making processes and contribute to the assessment of their needs, their reviews and the transition processes.

The Families/Carers role

Families/carers are expected to:

- Support at home by ensuring their child completes their homework
- Show an interest in, and ask questions about the work and activities their child is currently engaged in at school
- Do everything possible to help their child be fully integrated and follow the Academy's Code of Conduct

- Make every effort to attend review meetings, parents' evenings and relevant Academy events

The student's Role

To co-operate with families/carers and Academy staff by:

- Showing families/carers letters/messages from Academy and teachers letters from home
- Writing down homework (or asking for help to do so) before leaving the classroom
- Contributing to SEND reviews
- Engaging positively with the support provided
- Communicating with their tutor or SEND staff if they have concerns or positive news to share

LINK WITH SUPPORT SERVICES AND OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Support and advice is received from a range of outside agencies, including the Local Authority, Children and Family Services - Inclusion and Student Support, the Education Psychology Service, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and the Educational Welfare Service, Aspire and the Primary Pupil referral Unit.

The AP (SEND) co-ordinates the school's use of the Educational Psychologist's time in school, the Speech and Language Therapy Service and links with Connexions for students with SEND. The AP (SEND) also liaises with pastoral staff in relation to the school doctor, Social Services, Educational Welfare Officer, and the Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Service.

The AP (SEND) liaises with all agencies about the actions taken in support of students, with the aim that families/carers and students perceive the provision as "seamless".

EVALUATION

The effectiveness of the Academy SEND policy is reviewed annually by the Governing Body and they will publish an Annual SEND Report on the Academy website for parents/carers.

The Academy Trust will continue to review this policy in line with developing national SEND reforms and Department for Education guidance.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

In the event of the normal systems of communication proving insufficient, families/carers may make a complaint. This can be done by writing to the Primary Headteacher or Secondary Headteacher with concerns clearly stated using the Academy Complaints Policy which is available on the website.

WEBSITES

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>