



DUCKS LEARNING SUPPORT POLICY

Introduction

At DUCKS we have high expectations and aspirations for all our children. We are committed to enabling every child to build the essential skills which will empower them to reach their true potential. We promote the belief in what may be possible and a view of ability that is flexible, not fixed. This ethos reflects the value we place on diversity and the respect accorded to all individuals. Enabling all pupils to participate in the full range of school life forms the underlying principle upon which our provision of support for learning is based. Support of children's differing needs is a collective whole-school responsibility.

Children may have additional needs at any time in their lives. It is therefore essential that the Learning Support and Disability Policy provides a clear framework for identification, assessment and provision for any pupil who may have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Our aim is to enable pupils to be confident in their abilities and intrinsically motivated.

The purpose of this policy is:

- To ensure all pupils, including those with SEN and/or disabilities, access a broad and balanced curriculum that is differentiated to their needs.
- To ensure a robust system, where all staff are involved in the identification, assessment and individualised provision for any pupil with SEN, learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
- To provide appropriate support for teachers enabling them to meet the learning needs of all pupils.

Definitions

This policy and the school's SEND provision are informed by the SEN and Disability Code of Practice 2015. Where required, the school will have due regard to the Code. The Code sets out the following definitions:

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 him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- a) has significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- b) 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.

A child under compulsory school age has special educational needs if he or she is likely to fall within the definition of a) or b) above when they reach compulsory school age or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them.

At DUCKS we recognise that it should not be assumed that attainment in line with chronological age means that there is no learning difficulty or disability. It is important to recognise that there may be pupils who do not have SEN as defined by the act, but are nevertheless hindered from fulfilling their potential without tailored recognition of their needs and individualised provision.

Learning Support (LS) is the educational or training provision that is additional to or different from what is generally made for other children of the same age. For a child under two years of age, this means educational provision of any kind.

Section 20 of the Children and Families Act (2014) makes clear: A child does not have a learning difficulty or disability solely because the language in which he or she will be taught is different from a language which is spoken at home.

Objectives

- To identify at the earliest opportunity any pupil who may have special educational needs
- To make clear the identification, assessment and provision process for children with SEND
- To conduct a regular review of pupils' progress, ensuring our children have a voice in this process
- To provide different levels of intervention depending on each pupil's need
- To provide pastoral care and support for each pupil so they develop a strong sense of self-esteem
- To ensure all staff are aware of pupils' individual needs and give guidance on how to provide for these in the classroom environment and elsewhere
- To recognise the importance of the parent partnership in the progress of pupils and involve parents/carers fully in the education of their child
- To work in conjunction with any relevant outside agencies
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of staff in providing for children's additional educational needs.

Responsibilities

In DUCKS, the Head, Mrs. Nicky Black and the Head of Learning Support Transition, Mrs. Gillian Benest hold responsibility for overseeing the provision for children with SEND. The Learning Support Coordinators, Mrs.

Cathy Delacroix and Mrs. Sally Donaldson, are responsible for managing the day to day provision of education for pupils with SEN within the Infant School and Kindergarten.

The role of Head of Learning Support Transition

- Tracking and monitoring pupil progress
- Evaluating the effectiveness of specialist and non-specialist provision
- Keeping up to date with relevant legislation, research and established best practice
- Ensuring interventions are time-managed and targeted with the children's needs at their core
- Ensuring a smooth transition when children join the school (including at the EYFS) or move to another school, including Dulwich College
- Revising policies and procedures
- Coordinating the professional development of specialist and non-specialist staff

The role of Learning Support Coordinator

- manages the day-to-day operation of the policy
- assisting in the monitoring of progress
- co-ordinates the provision for and manages the responses to children's additional needs
- planning and teaching 1:1 and group sessions
- supports and advises colleagues about the best practice in the support of the children with SEND
- oversees the records of all children with additional educational needs
- acts as the link with parents
- acts as link with external agencies and other support agencies such as specialist assessors, educational psychologists and health and social care professionals
- monitors and evaluates the additional educational needs provision
- manages a range of resources to enable appropriate provision for children with additional educational needs
- contributes to the professional development of all staff

The Infant School Learning Support Coordinator is supported by a part-time Learning Support Teacher.

The role of the Learning Support Teacher

- Planning the provision and undertaking teaching of 1:1 and group sessions
- Working with teachers and pupils to create target plans
- Carries out initial screening tests and assessments as asked of them by the Learning Support Coordinator
- Advising teachers about the specific needs of the children that they teach
- Maintaining the SEN records of the children that they teach, adding new information and ensuring that the records are up to date and accurate
- Reporting to parents

All teaching staff are expected to be familiar with pupils' individual needs and differentiate activities and resources accordingly. Key people/teachers give extra care and respond to children's needs by:

- planning to develop children's understanding through the use of all available senses and experiences
- being aware of the pupils in the school that are on the Learning Support Register
- planning for children's full participation in learning, and in physical and practical activities
- helping children to manage their behaviour and to take part in learning effectively and safely
- helping individuals to manage their emotions, particularly trauma or stress, and to take part in learning
- liaising with the Learning Support Coordinator about progress and support
- helping to set 'SMART' targets to monitor progress on a Target Plan

Identification and Assessment of Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEND)

Areas of Need

Our SEN provision is matched to a child's identified needs. Support might be required in one or more of the following categories:

- communication and interaction
- cognition and learning
- social, emotional and mental health difficulties

- sensory and/or physical needs
- medical needs

All pupils at DUCKS receive high-quality teaching. Teachers are committed and passionate. They have high expectations and employ a broad range of teaching strategies which they adapt to meet the needs of their pupils. Teachers use relevant assessment information to inform teaching and learning. This is then utilised in the early identification of underachievement.

We adopt a cyclical approach to supporting SEND children. This process involves the assess, plan, do, review sequence as recommended by the SEND Code of Practice (2015).

Identification and Assessment of a Child with SEND

Early identification involves effective tracking of all pupils by the class teacher. Any children that may cause concern because they fall significantly outside the expected academic range or do not make the expected progress against indicators will be closely monitored. However, concerns can be triggered in a number of different ways including through parent/carers, involvement of support services or symptoms observed by members of staff.

During each academic year all pupils complete standardised reading, spelling and mathematics tests. Test results, alongside formative data is scrutinised by the class teacher. Low scores are identified and highlighted to the Learning Support Coordinator as well as the parents. If it is felt low scores may indicate a learning difficulty the Learning Support Coordinator may undertake observations in class and further assessments to give a clearer representation of need. On occasion, the Learning Support Coordinator may make the judgement that a more detailed assessment of the pupil is required. A referral to an Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist or other external agent may be recommended. DUCKS has close links with various outside agencies to whom parents can be introduced. Parents would be required to pay for the assessment and if a specialist agent is required to come to DUCKS to work with the child.

Following a detailed diagnostic assessment, parents are invited to attend a feedback session. DUCKS endeavours to implement all reasonable recommendations given in reports. Support lessons with the Learning Support department may then be timetabled in. For other pupils, specific support within a small group may be provided or adjustments in class made.

Children suspected of having additional learning needs are closely monitored throughout the year through discussions with the Learning Support Coordinator, parents and teachers. Parents are kept fully informed throughout the process.

Provision – A Graduated Approach

We recognise that all children learn at different rates and that a learner's profile is not linear. Teachers prepare lessons that are carefully planned with differentiated, multi-sensory activities.

Where a child may show that they are experiencing difficulties in accessing the curriculum for any reason, the class teacher/key person will plan interventions that are different from or additional to those provided as part of the school's usual working practices. The key person/teacher will keep parents fully informed and draw upon them for additional information. The Learning Support department will consult with the teacher and give ongoing advice ensuring that knowledge and skills are shared to fully support all children.

If it is deemed the child is not making progress following the graduated approach the Learning Support Coordinator will be involved to screen the pupil. Parents' permission will be sought prior to this. The outcomes of this screening will dictate the nature of further support. The Learning Support Coordinator and/or Learning Support teacher will determine a personalised programme for the individual pupil that may involve:

- Further differentiation in the classroom, supported and directed by the Learning Support department
- Individualised outcomes – focused target setting
- Additional specialist teaching such as in small groups or 1:1
- Pastoral support
- Referral to external specialists

If it is deemed that a child requires out of class support, they will receive additional or different help devised by a member of the Learning Support Department. Children follow cumulative, multi-sensory programmes which are tailored to their need. Support for literacy, numeracy and social skills are available. Sessions are carefully timetabled so that the pupil does not miss any core curriculum teaching or games sessions. Parents are not required to pay for any support lessons given by the school.

The progress of children on the Learning Support Register is monitored closely. If it is seen that a pupil is making good progress, and is working significantly closer to the level expected of a child of his or her age, we will consult with parents and move the pupil back through the stages of our graduated approach.

The Learning Support Department are available for individual appointments at parents' evening as well as throughout the assessment process. A report is written at the end of the Summer Term.

Record Keeping

The Learning Support Coordinator maintains registers of pupils identified as having SEN or additional learning needs. Parents/Carers will be informed if their child is placed on the Learning Support Register. This Register is circulated to all members of staff at the beginning of each academic year. This list can be found in the SEN folder in DUCKS Documents and is updated regularly. The document contains the names of any children with additional needs and the nature of any identified specific difficulty.

A target plan is written for any pupil on the Register. The Learning Support department and teachers work closely to draw these up after consultation with pupils, parents and in some cases outside agencies. The plan makes clear as to the support provided as well as the outcomes being sought alongside the indicators that progress is being made and is regularly reviewed.

This information will be shared within DUCKS with all staff who may be involved in delivering the support and any training issues that arise from this will be identified and addressed through CPD, INSET or in-house support. In working closely with parents we hope that any intervention can be reinforced at home which will support and contribute to the overall progress of the child.

Evaluation of Provision

We achieve educational inclusion by continually asking ourselves:

- Do all our children achieve their true potential?
- Are our actions effective?
- Are we successful in preparing pupils for the educational challenges ahead?

Class teachers and the Learning Support Department meet regularly to monitor achievement. The Head, Head of Learning Support Transition and Learning Support Coordinator meet each term to review pupils' progress in comparison to the cohort as a whole. Parent's views are sought in the evaluation process through target review meetings and the Learning Support Coordinator is also available to talk to parents by appointment throughout the year.

Pupils are encouraged to feedback on their provision through metacognitive opportunities during lessons and target plan reviews. Their feelings in regards to their strengths and any areas they feel they need extra support with are recorded on the target plans.

Transition

Where children move between year groups or from the Kindergarten to the Infants' School, we have a well-established transition period and effective information sharing procedures.

When moving to new schools, parents are involved in agreeing the information that is shared with the next setting. To ensure a smooth transition for pupils moving onto Dulwich College, meetings are held between the Head of Learning Support Transition, Learning Support Department Infant School and Learning Support Coordinator Junior School. Parents will be informed that a meeting has been held and records passed over, they will also be encouraged to meet with the Learning Support Coordinator at the Junior School.

Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

Where children are identified as having more complex needs, an application for an EHC plan may be suggested. EHC replaces statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs).

Local Offer

The SEND Local Offer is a resource which is designated to support children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families. It describes the services and provision that are available both to those families that have an Education, Health and Care Plan and those who do not but still experience some form of special educational need. The SEND Local Offer includes information about public services across education, health and social care, as well as those provided by the private, voluntary and community sectors.

The Southwark Local Offer can be found at: <http://localoffer.southwark.gov.uk/>

Children for whom English is an Additional Language

We do not consider pupils with English as an additional language as having special educational needs. However, if we feel their understanding and use of English impacts on their learning we consider whether the pupil might have additional needs and for this they may receive extra support. Please see DUCKS' EAL Policy.

This policy operates within wider national and local policy framework, which includes:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children and Families Act 2014, SEND Regulations 2014 and SEND Code of Practice 2015
- Dulwich College Admissions Policy for children entering DUCKS from the age of 6 months to 7 years.
- DUCKS EAL Policy
- Equality Policy
- DUCKS Accessibility Plan

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