

GILBERT INGLEFIELD ACADEMY



SEND POLICY

Date of Policy: May 2025

Approved by Full Governing Body: Pending

Review Date: May 2026

Staff responsible: Head Teacher
SENDCo

Aims and objectives

Our SEND policy aims to:

- Set out how our school will support and make provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEND.

Gilbert Inglefield Academy is an inclusive school and strives to support all children to enable them to make the best possible progress and achieve well. To accomplish these aims, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum with high quality teaching and provide effective support for children with SEND. Most of our students can be supported through a range of ordinarily available provision strategies and adaptive teaching used by staff in class. The SEND team, class teachers and support staff all work together calling also on parental involvement. Partnership between home and school is vital if effective provision is to be made for children.

At our school, every child is equal, valued and unique. We aim to provide an environment where all pupils feel safe and can flourish. We will respond to individuals in ways which consider their varied life experiences and particular needs. We can make other reasonable adjustments for children with SEND or suspected SEND, including an adapted uniform for those with sensory needs and use of technology (where available).

Form tutors will keep parents and carers informed about their child's learning, progress and wellbeing, and will highlight if there are possible concerns. Equally, if you have any concerns about your child's learning or possible SEND, their form tutor will be the first person to contact to arrange a meeting. If appropriate or requested, a member of the SEND team will also be present.

If we feel that your child needs support which is over and above ordinarily available provision, they may have access to further in-class adaptations or a range of different interventions. This is the point when your child would be placed on our SEND register as they are accessing a provision which is additional to, or different from, that of many of their peers.

We are committed to providing an education that enables all pupils to make progress so that they achieve their best, become confident individuals living fulfilling lives and make a successful transition to their next phase of education. We aim to:

- ensure equality of provision for pupils with special educational needs and disability (SEND);
- comply with our funding agreement and articles of association.
- provide full access for all pupils to a broad and balanced curriculum.
- ensure that the needs of pupils with SEND are identified, assessed, planned for and regularly reviewed to improve outcomes.

- enable pupils with SEND to achieve their full potential.
- ensure parents/carers are fully engaged in decision making.
- consider the views, wishes and feelings of pupils.
- provide advice and support for all staff working with pupils with SEND.
- provide detailed information about the arrangements for identifying, assessing and making provision for pupils with SEND.

Vision and values

We are an inclusive school and strive to support all children to enable them to make the best possible progress and achieve well. To accomplish these aims, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum with high quality teaching and provide effective support for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Legislation and guidance

This is based on the statutory guidance [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#), [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) and [working together to improve school attendance](#).

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

- [Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN co-ordinators (SENCOs) and the special educational needs (SEN) information report
- The [Equality Act 2010](#) (section 20), which sets out the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities
- The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes having a disability) and those who don't share it
- The governance guide for [academy trusts](#) which sets out governors' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- The [School Admissions Code](#), which sets out the school's obligation to admit all pupils whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and its duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special educational needs

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

Inclusion and equal opportunities

At our school we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all pupils, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We are committed to offering all pupils the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations.

We will achieve this by making reasonable adjustments to teaching, the curriculum and the school environment to make sure that pupils with SEND are included in all aspects of school life.

Definitions

Special educational needs:

A pupil has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision to be made for them.

They have a learning difficulty or disability if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age, or
- 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

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

Disability

Pupils are considered to have a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

The school will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

The 4 areas of need

The needs of pupils with SEND are grouped into 4 broad areas. Pupils can have needs that cut across more than 1 area, and their needs may change over time.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the pupil's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

<p>Cognition and Learning</p> <p>Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers.</p> <p>A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific learning difficulties, which impact one or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia • Moderate learning difficulties • Severe learning difficulties • Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment 	<p>Communication and Interaction</p> <p>Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or not understand or use the social rules of communication.</p> <p>Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.</p>
<p>Social Emotional and Mental Health</p> <p>These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder • Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder • Suffered adverse childhood experiences <p>These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or</p>	<p>Physical and/or Sensory</p> <p>Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided.</p> <p>Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment • A physical impairment <p>These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.</p>

disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.

Roles and responsibilities

The SENDCo

The SENDCo at our school is Lucy Price.

They will:

- Inform any parents that their child may have SEN and then liaise with them about the pupil's needs and any provision made
- Work with the headteacher and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- Be a point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to make sure that appropriate provision is provided
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to make sure that the pupil and their parents/carers are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned
- When a pupil moves to a different school or institution: Make sure that all relevant information about a pupil's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution in a timely manner
- Work with the headteacher and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 regarding reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Make sure the school keeps its records of all pupils with SEND up to date and accurate
- With the headteacher, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEND, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- With the headteacher, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy
- With the headteacher and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

The governing board/board of trustees

The governing board is responsible for making sure the following duties are carried out, though the duties can be delegated to a committee or an individual:

- Co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and developing the local offer
- Do all it can to make sure that every pupil with SEND gets the support they need
- Make sure that pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who don't have SEND
- Inform parents/carers when the school is making special educational provision for their child

- Make sure that the school has arrangements in place to support any pupils with medical conditions
- Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- Have a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND
- Provide an annual report for parents/carers on their child's progress
- Record accurately and keep up to date the provision made for pupils with SEND
- Publish information on the school website about how the school is implementing its SEND policy, in an SEN information report
- Publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and the school's accessibility plans
- Make sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENCo for the school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out, and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out
- Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND
- Make sure that all pupils from year 8 are provided with independent careers advice

The SEND link governor

The SEND link governor is Pete Roberts – office@gilbertinglefield.com

The SEND governor will:

- Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at governing board meetings
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within the school and update the governing board on this
- Work with the headteacher and SENCo to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school

The headteacher

The headteacher will:

- Work with the SENCo and SEND link governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school
- Work with the SENCo and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 regarding reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for pupils with SEND, and their progress
- Have responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEND budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual pupils
- Make sure that the SENCo has enough time to carry out their duties
- Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of pupils on the SEND register
- Advise the LA when a pupil needs an EHC needs assessment, or when an EHC plan needs an early review
- With the SENCo, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- With the SENCo, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- With the SENCo and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

Class teachers

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is differentiated to meet pupil needs through a graduated approach
- The progress and development of every pupil in their class
- Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- Working with the SENDCo to review each pupil's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision
- Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report
- Communicating with parents/carers regularly to:
 - Set clear outcomes and review progress towards them
 - Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set outcomes
 - Identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school
 - Listen to the parents'/carers' concerns and agree their aspirations for the pupil

Parents or carers

Parents or carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development.

Parents or carers of a pupil on the SEND register will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about the pupil's SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. They will be:

- Invited to termly meetings to review the provision that is in place for their child
- Asked to provide information about the impact of SEN support outside school and any changes in the pupil's needs
- Given the opportunity to share their concerns and, with school staff, agree their aspirations for the pupil
- Given an annual report on the pupil's progress

The school will consider the views of the parents or carers in any decisions made about the pupil.

The pupil

Pupils will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. This might involve the pupil:

- Explaining what their strengths and difficulties are
- Contributing to setting targets or outcomes
- Attending review meetings
- Giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions

The pupil's views will be considered in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.

SEND information report

The school publishes a SEND information report on its website, which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school.

The information report will be updated annually and as soon as possible after any changes to the information it contains.

Our approach to SEND support

Identifying pupils with SEND and assessing their needs

While children are still at lower school information is collected which helps identify those with learning, emotional and behavioural difficulties. This information is passed on to the SENDCo and to the Year 5

class teachers, and appropriate in-class support or individual attention is arranged and timetabled accordingly.

In addition, during the first three weeks at GIA all children's abilities in reading, spelling and maths are assessed, and those found to have difficulties targeted for further help.

Class teachers will regularly assess the progress of all pupils and identify any whose progress:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better their previous rate of progress
- Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers
- Widens the attainment gap

This may include progress in areas other than attainment; for example, wider development or social needs.

When teachers identify an area where a pupil is making slow progress, they will target the pupil's area of weakness with differentiated, high-quality teaching. If progress does not improve, the teacher will raise the issue with the SENCo to have an initial discussion about whether this lack of progress may be due to a special educational need. Where necessary they will, in consultation with the pupil's parents or carers, consider consulting an external specialist.

Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a pupil is recorded as having SEN.

Potential short-term causes of impact on behaviour or performance will be considered, such as bullying or bereavement. Staff will also take particular care in identifying and assessing SEN for pupils whose first language is not English.

When deciding whether the pupil needs special educational provision, we will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the pupil and their parents/carers. We will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether we can provide it by adapting our core offer, or whether something different or additional is needed.

If a pupil is joining the school, and:

- Their previous setting has already identified that they have SEN
- They are known to external agencies
- They have an education, health and care plan (EHCP)

The school will work in a multi-agency way to make sure we get relevant information before the pupil starts at school, so support can be put in place as early as possible.

Consulting and involving pupils and parents/carers

Partnership between home and school is vital if effective provision is to be made for all children, not just those with additional needs. We value parents/carers and their important role in their child's education. We will have an early discussion with the pupil and their parents when identifying whether they need special educational provision. Interpreters can be arranged for parents who require translation during meetings. Written information is in accessible formats and sufficient notice is given for meetings to enable parents/carers time to prepare. The Early Help Assessment (EHA) is used to coordinate support for children and their families who have a range of needs. The importance of a child's input into their provision is highlighted in the SEND Code of Practice. Therefore, the SEND team meet with children at regular intervals throughout their career at Gilbert Inglefield, including through mentoring meetings, drop-ins in the SEND office and individual conversations in class.

The SEND team meet with parents/carers at regular intervals throughout a child's school career at Gilbert Inglefield:

- Year 4 transfer reviews for children with EHC Plans.
- The prospective parents/carers' open evening and on subsequent open days before children are due to transfer to middle school.
- The Year 5 open evening for children coming to Gilbert Inglefield, when parents/carers can discuss individual special needs and how those needs will be addressed once their child is in school.

- After the first half term in middle school, following our internal assessments and screeners; the form tutor and/ or SENDCo will inform parents/carers if the school feels that their child needs additional support.
- If at any point, your child is either being placed on, or removed from, the SEND register, you will be invited in to discuss this with the SEND team.
- At planning, monitoring and review meetings.
- Parents/carers can discuss their child 's progress and needs at consultation evenings but can also request a meeting with the SENDCo at any time of the school year.

Our consultations with parents will make sure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty.
- We consider the parents' concerns.
- Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child.
- Everyone is clear on what the next steps are.
- We will formally notify parents when it is decided that a pupil will receive SEND support and is being placed on the SEND register, or if they are being removed from the SEND register.

The graduated approach to SEN support

Once a pupil has been identified as having SEN, we will take action to remove any barriers to learning, and put effective special educational provision in place. This support will be delivered through successive rounds of a 4-part cycle known as the graduated approach.

<p>Assess</p> <p>The pupil's class teacher and the SENDCo will carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. The views of the pupil and their parents/carers will be considered. The school may also seek advice from external support services.</p> <p>The assessment will be reviewed regularly to help make sure that the support in place is matched to the pupil's need. For many pupils, the most reliable way to identify needs is to observe the way they respond to an intervention.</p>	<p>Plan</p> <p>In consultation with the parents/carers and the pupil, the teacher and the SENDCo will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review.</p> <p>All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of the pupil's needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are needed. This information will be recorded on our management information system, Arbor, and will be made accessible to staff in a Pupil passport.</p> <p>Parents/carers will be fully aware of the planned support and interventions and may be asked to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.</p>
<p>Do</p> <p>The pupil's class or subject teacher retains overall responsibility for their progress.</p> <p>Where the plan involves group or 1-to-1 teaching away from the main class or subject teacher, they still retain responsibility for the pupil. They will work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and</p>	<p>Review</p> <p>The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.</p> <p>We will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. This evaluation will be based on:</p>

<p>how they can be linked to classroom teaching.</p> <p>The SENDCo will support the teacher in further assessing the pupil's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on how to implement support effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The views of the parents/carers and pupils • The level of progress the pupil has made towards their outcomes • The views of teaching staff who work with the pupil <p>The teacher and the SENDCo will revise the outcomes and support considering the pupil's progress and development, and in consultation with the pupil and their parents/carers.</p>
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Levels of support

School-based SEN provision

Pupils receiving SEN provision will be placed on the school's SEND register. These pupils have needs that can be met by the school through the graduated approach. Where the pupil's needs cannot be adequately met with in-house expertise, staff will consider involving an external specialist as soon as possible.

The provision for these pupils is funded through the school's notional SEND budget.

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code K.

Education, health and care (EHC) plan

Pupils who need more support than is available through the school's school-based SEN provision may be entitled to an EHC plan. The plan is a legal document that describes the needs of the pupil, the provision that will be put in place, and the outcomes sought.

The provision for these pupils will be funded from the school's notional SEND budget, and potentially from the LA (from the high-level needs funding block of the dedicated schools grant).

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code E.

Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- Tracking pupils' progress, including by using provision maps
- Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support
- Using pupil questionnaires
- Monitoring by the SENDCo
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans
- Getting feedback from the pupil and their parents/carers

Attendance

Many pupils with SEND face complex barriers to attendance. Their right to an education is the same as any other pupil and therefore the attendance ambition for these pupils is the same as it is for any other pupil. However, they may need additional support.

Our approach to supporting pupils who are absent from school due to their SEND is set out in our attendance policy.

Safeguarding

We recognise that pupils with SEND can face additional safeguarding challenges. Children with disabilities are more likely to be abused than their peers, and additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse, exploitation and neglect in this group.

For more details of the pastoral support we offer pupils with SEND, and the support we provide to help pupils overcome any communication barriers they face, see our safeguarding/child protection policy.

[SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY.pdf](#)

Expertise and training of staff

Training will regularly be provided to teaching and support staff. The headteacher and the SENDCo will continuously monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.

Links with external professional agencies

The school recognises that it won't be able to meet all the needs of every pupil. Whenever necessary, the school will work with external support services such as:

- Speech and language therapists
- Specialist teachers or support services
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- General practitioners or paediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Education welfare officers
- Social services

Admission and accessibility arrangements

Admission arrangements

- Pupils with EHCPs naming Gilbert Inglefield Academy are admitted in priority
- Oversubscription criteria do not disadvantage SEND pupils
- Visit our Admissions Policy for details

[ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR NEW INTAKE 2025-2026.pdf](#)

Accessibility arrangements

- Wheelchair ramps into every teaching block
- Library lawn pathway – wheelchair width.
- Lift in Kestrel block.
- Lift in Falcon teaching block.
- Lift in Red Kite teaching block
- Equipment in Food Room specially adapted for wheelchair users.
- Disabled toilets in Buzzard, Red Kite and Kestrel blocks.
- Evacuseats on all staircases
- Visit our Accessibility Action Plan 2023-2026 for details

[Accessibility Action Plan 2023-26](#)

Complaints about SEND provision

Formal complaints about SEND provision in our school should be made to Louise Thompson, Deputy Head Teacher with responsibility for Inclusion in the first instance. They will be handled in line with the school's complaints policy [COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE.pdf](#).

If the parent or carer is not satisfied with the school's response, they can escalate the complaint. In some circumstances, this right also applies to the pupils themselves.

To see a full explanation of suitable avenues for complaint, see pages 246 and 247 of the SEN Code of Practice.

To find out about disagreement resolution and mediation services in our local area, please see: the following webpage: www.gov.uk/complain-about-school

Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND policy. We will do this by evaluating whether we are meeting our objectives set out in section 1.

We will evaluate how effective our SEND provision is with regards to:

- All staff's awareness of pupils with SEND at the start of the autumn term
- How early pupils are identified as having SEND
- Pupils' progress and attainment once they have been identified as having SEND
- Whether pupils with SEND feel safe, valued and included in the school community
- Comments and feedback from pupils and their parents/carers

Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by the SENDCo every year. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

It will be approved by the full governing board.

Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to the following documents:

- SEN information report
- The local offer [Central Bedfordshire SEND Local Offer](#)
- Accessibility plan [Template for a school accessibility plan](#)
- Behaviour policy [GIA BEHAVIOUR POLICY 2025.pdf](#)
- Equality policy and scheme [EQUALITY POLICY AND SCHEME.pdf](#)
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy [The management of medical conditions in school and the administration of medicine to pupils](#)
- Attendance policy [ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY POLICY.pdf](#)
- Safeguarding / child protection policy [SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY.pdf](#)
- Complaints policy [COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE.pdf](#)