

# **Interim Special Educational Needs Policy Integrated College Dungannon**



Reviewed by SENCO: November 2024

Agreed by Governors: March 2024

## Foreword

For the purposes of this document the term SEN refers to those students in your school who have special educational needs and/or a disability which affects their learning. As well as using the suggestions we provide, any policy must be personal to your school and be developed as the result of a consultation process between all stakeholders. It must be comprehensive, accurate, fit for purpose and linked to your school's development plan.

In line with the [Freedom of Information Act](#), copies of your school's policy information should be available to all relevant stakeholders. Therefore, it is essential that your SEN policy should be up-to-date, accurate and reflect current practice in your school. Your policy should take account of the following legislation and documentation:

### Legislation:

- [The Education \(NI\) Order 1996](#)
- [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(NI\) Order 2005](#)
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act \(NI\) 2016](#)

### Documentation:

- [Department of Education Northern Ireland \(1998\) Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs. Bangor: DENI](#) (PDF, 644KB)
- [Department of Education Northern Ireland \(2005\) Supplement to the Code of Practice. Bangor: DENI](#) (PDF, 801KB)
- [Equality Commission, Northern Ireland \(2006\) Disability Discrimination Code of Practice for Schools \(SEND0\)](#). (PDF, 761 KB)
- [Department of Education Northern Ireland \(2009\) \*Every School a Good School – a policy for school improvement\*, Bangor: DENI](#). (PDF, 706KB)

## **Rationale/Vision**

Integrated College Dungannon staff are committed to providing equal access for all our students to a broad and balanced educational experience based on the Northern Ireland Curriculum. We recognise that some students during their school career may have special educational needs and/or a disability. In the interests of these children, we will endeavour to make every reasonable arrangement to provide for their individual needs.

The legislation that currently governs practice regarding children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) is the Education Order (1996). The current Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of SEN provides guidance on how the legislation is to be delivered in schools and was published in 1998.

SEND0 (2005) increased the rights of children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities to be educated in mainstream schools and aimed to ensure that children with disabilities were not disadvantaged compared to their peers in school. This included the school being proactive in areas such as ensuring that the school is prepared with an adapted environment and differentiated curricula for all children who may wish to attend, including those with SEN/Disabilities.

The Supplement to the Code of Practice was published in 2005 and updated parts of the 1998 Code of Practice to reflect the changes following SEND0 (2005).

The most recent legislation, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (NI) 2016, strengthens and builds upon the duties contained within the Education Order (NI) 1996 and SEND0 (NI) 2005. It places new duties on the schools Board of Governors, the Education Authority and Health and Social Care Trusts. It provides new rights for parents and children over compulsory school age. It is one element of the new SEN and Inclusion Framework which include new SEN Regulations and a new statutory Code of Practice as of 2021, awaiting ministerial approval.

NB: In the interim, schools have been advised that they must continue to adhere to all aspects of the Code of Practice (1998) and the Supplement to the Code of Practice (2005), except for recording children under the new three stages of the Code of Practice.

## **Definitions**

For all involved in a child's education it is important that there is a clear understanding of the terms 'special educational needs,' 'learning difficulty' and 'special educational provision, as defined in Article 3 of the 1996 Order.

## **Special Educational Needs**

A child has special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made.

### **Learning Difficulty**

A child has a learning difficulty if:

- (a) they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than **the majority of** children of the same age;
- (b) they have a disability which either prevents or hinders them making use of everyday educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in ordinary schools; or
- (c) they have not attained the lower limit of compulsory school age and is or would be if special educational provision were not made, likely to fall within (a) or (b) when of compulsory school age.

### **Special Educational Provision**

Special educational provision (SpEP) is educational provision, which is additional to, or otherwise different from, the educational provision made generally for children of their age in ordinary schools.

## **Disability**

The following definition of disability is taken from the Disability Discrimination Act (1995):

A disability is when someone has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

(Paragraph 2.3)

## **Key Principles of Inclusion**

The Disability Discrimination Code of Practice for Schools (ECNI, 2006), states: “...*all students have a right to the same opportunities in the whole of their educational life.*”

All schools should have an inclusive ethos and actively seek to promote the inclusion of all children. Schools should approach inclusion as an integral part of all school policies including the school’s SEN policy, school development plan, the school’s accessibility plan and policies relating to e.g., discipline, bullying and pastoral care.

## **SEN and Medical Categories**

The following is the list of the five overarching SEN categories and sub-categories taken from: [Department of Education Northern Ireland \(2019\) Recording SEN and Medical Categories – Guidance for Schools, Bangor: DENI](#)).

### **1. Cognition and Learning (CL) – language, literacy, mathematics, numeracy**

- a) Dyslexia (DYL) or Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) - language/literacy
- b) Dyscalculia (DYC) or Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) - mathematics/numeracy
- c) Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)
- d) Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD)
- e) Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)

### **2. Social, Behavioural, Emotional and Well-being (SBEW)**

- a) Social and Behavioural Difficulties (SBD)
- b) Emotional and Well-being Difficulties (EWD)

- b) Severe Challenging Behaviour associated with SLD or PMLD (SCB)

### **3. Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)**

- a) Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)
- b) Language Disorder associated with a differentiating/ biomedical condition (LD)
- c) Communication and Social Interaction Difficulties (CSID)

### **4. Sensory (SE)**

- a) Blind (BD)
- b) Partially Sighted (PS)
- c) Severe/Profound Hearing Impairment (SPHI)
- d) Mild or Moderate Hearing Impairment (MMHI)
- e) Multi-sensory Impairment (MSI)

### **5. Physical Need (PN)**

- a) Physical (P)

## **Children with a medical condition**

Children who have an identified medical condition will be recorded on the school's medical register. Those who do not require special educational provision will be recorded on the Medical register only and will not be placed on the SEN register.

A student with a medical diagnosis or disability may or may not have a SEN but what is key is "does the student have a requirement for special educational provision to access the curriculum."

A student can be recorded on both the SEN register and medical register if they have both a medical need and require special educational provision to be made for them.

The Medical Register is the responsibility of the Head of Health and Safety. Those children on the medical register who do require special educational provision will fall under the responsibility of the SENCo.

The following is the list of the key medical diagnoses as commonly identified and agreed by the Department of Health which occur within the school population taken from [Department of Education Northern Ireland \(2019\) Recording SEN and Medical Categories – Guidance for Schools, Bangor: DENI](#)).

- Epilepsy

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Anaphylaxis
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)/ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Dyspraxia/ Development Co-ordination Disorder (DCD)
- Developmental Language Disorder (Medical) (DLD)
- Global Developmental Delay
- Down Syndrome
- Complex Healthcare Needs
- Anxiety Disorder (includes social anxiety, phobia, school refusal, obsessive compulsive disorder)
- Depression
- Eating Disorder
- Psychosis
- Other Medical Disorder
- Cerebral Palsy
- Spina Bifida – with Hydrocephalus
- Spina Bifida – without Hydrocephalus
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Acquired Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment
- Hearing Impairment
- Physical Disability
- Other Medical Condition/ Syndrome

### **Policy Aims**

1. To identify students with SEN/disability as early as possible using a variety of measures and in consultation with appropriate personnel.
2. To ensure full entitlement and access for students with SEN/disability to high quality education within a broad, balanced, relevant, and differentiated curriculum.
3. To ensure that all students with SEN/disability feel valued.
4. To offer curricular, pastoral, and extra-curricular opportunities that allow students to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills so ensuring progress, promoting success and self-confidence.

5. To offer a broad curriculum which will promote intellectual, emotional, social, and physical progress in order that students can develop as valuable members of society both now and in the future.
6. To encourage parental partnerships in all aspects of SEN provision.
7. To consider the views of the child/young person when planning and implementing SEN provision taking into account their age and capacity.
8. To support the child/young person in participating in making decisions in all aspects of their learning.
9. To strive for close co-operation between all services and agencies concerned to achieve an effective multi-disciplinary approach to meeting SEN.
10. To educate students with SEN, wherever possible, alongside their peers.
11. To develop a recording system so that each student's performance can be monitored and reviewed appropriately.
12. To encourage and/or maintain the interest of students with SEN in their education.
13. To encourage a range of teaching strategies that accommodate different learning styles and promote effective learning.
14. To create a caring and supportive environment in which students can contribute to the planned provision in relation to their individual learning needs.
15. To meet the needs of all students who have SEN by offering appropriate forms of educational provision and the most efficient use of available resources.
16. To promote collaboration amongst teachers in the implementation of the SEN policy.
17. To work closely with EA services and other outside agencies as appropriate to support each student with SEN.

### **Arrangements for Co-ordinating SEN Provision**

Although meeting the needs of students with SEN is a whole College issue, the overall responsibility for managing SEN provision resides with the Board of Governors and the Principal of the College. However, to facilitate the day-to-day running of the provision the Board of Governors has delegated responsibility to co-ordinate the provision for students with special educational needs to the SENCo.



## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The following section highlights the key roles and responsibilities of all those involved in SEN provision:

### **Board of Governors**

The role of the Board of Governors of a mainstream school is to exercise its functions in relation to the school with a view to ensuring that provision is made for registered students with special educational needs.

The College has appointed a SEN Governor, Catherine Donohue, to feedback to them the school's provision for children with special educational needs.

Chapter 12 of the document '*Every School a Good School*' (DENI, 2010) relates specifically to the role of the governor in supporting students with special educational needs. Based on this information, The *SEN Resource File* (DENI, 2011) outlines that the Board of Governors has a statutory duty to:

- take account of the provisions in the DE Code of Practice on identifying and assessing special educational needs;
- use their best efforts to provide for students identified with SEN and that parents are notified of their child's special needs;
- maintain and operate a policy on SEN;
- ensure that where a registered student has special educational needs, those needs are made known to all who are likely to teach them;
- check that the teachers in the College know the importance of identifying those registered students with SEN and of providing appropriate teaching; and
- allocate funding for special educational needs and disability; and
- prepare and take forward a written accessibility plan.

## **Principal**

According to the Code of Practice (1998) the Principal should:

- keep the Board of Governors informed about SEN issues;
- work in close partnership with the SENCo (Soon to be Learning Support Coordinator);
- liaise with parents and external agencies as required;
- delegate and monitor the SEN budget;
- ensure the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are actively involved in the management of SEN within the College;
- SLT members should ensure consistency of practice and contribute to the realisation of the College development plan; and
- provide a secure facility for the storage of records relating to special educational needs.

## **SENCo** (soon to be Learning Support Co-ordinator)

In all mainstream schools, a designated teacher who usually assumes the title of the special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo) should be responsible for:

- the day to day operation of the College's special educational needs policy;
- responding to requests for advice from other teachers;
- coordinating provision for students with special educational needs;
- maintain the school's SEN register and oversee all the records on students with special educational needs;
- working in partnership with parents of children with special educational needs;
- establishing the SEN in-service training requirements of the staff, and contributing as appropriate to their training; and
- liaising with external agencies.

## **The Head of College Achievement**

The Head of Achievement should:

- Monitor the progress of the child with SEN towards their academic targets;
- Liaise with the SENCo regarding interventions put in place by subject teachers, Heads of Department or any other mentoring programme put in place to support the academic progress of the student with SEN; and
- Alert the SENCo if they have any concerns about a student's academic progress.

## **Subject Teacher/Form Teacher**

The subject teacher should:

- be aware of current legislation;
- keep up to date with information on the SEN Register;

- gather information through observation and assessment;
- develop an inclusive classroom;
- work closely with other staff to plan for learning and teaching;
- contribute to, manage, and review IEPs in collaboration with the SENCo; and
- involve adult assistants as part of the learning team.

### **Head of Year Group Achievement**

The Head of Achievement (HOA) should:

- be aware of current legislation;
- keep up to date with the SEN Register;
- liaise with other staff regarding students who are experiencing difficulty;
- work closely with the SENCO/Head of Learning Support Centre (LSC), and
- update records as appropriate.

### **Head of Department**

The Head of Department (HOD) should:

- be aware of current legislation;
- keep up to date with the SEN Register;
- ensure new members of department are familiar with the SEN Policy;
- ensure that practice and procedures within the department promote learning and teaching which is relevant and accessible to all students;
- support subject teachers to enable them to provide an appropriate and differentiated curriculum;
- ensure appropriate resources are available; and
- discuss issues with subject teachers through departmental meetings and forward minutes to SENCo when appropriate;

### **SEN Support Staff/ Additional Adult Assistants**

Support Staff/ Additional Adult Assistants should:

- work under the direction of the subject teacher;
- be involved in planning;
- look for positives by talking to the child about his/her strengths;

- provide practical support;
- listen to the child/young person, speak to staff on the child's behalf;
- explain boundaries and operate these consistently and fairly;
- keep records and attend meetings; and
- share good practice.

### **Student views**

In College, as far as reasonably practicable, we seek and have regard to the child's/ young person's views about their strengths, learning difficulties and education, taking into account their age and maturity. We seek and listen to their views about how they learn effectively and then focus on the strategies that work for them.

Key decisions for a particular student might include:

- contributing to their own assessment, provision, and progress;
- working towards achieving agreed targets;
- contributing to the review of IEPs/PLPs, Annual Reviews, and the Transition process; and
- involving and supporting the students to participate in making decisions about matters affecting them.

Seeking their views and supporting them to participate in making decisions about their learning is good practice. The child's/young person's progress will be more effective when both they and, where appropriate, their parents are involved, and account is taken of their wishes, feelings, and perspectives.

### **Parent/person with parental responsibility**

At ICD, we acknowledge that successful partnerships between parents, students and College play a key role in promoting a culture of co-operation, openness and transparency and have a crucial impact on the effectiveness of special educational provision. Seeking the views of the child or young person also plays a key role in helping us understand individual needs.

Teachers, pastoral staff, SENCos (LSCs), and other College staff all have a significant role in developing positive and constructive relationships with parents and students. We encourage this participation and value its contribution.

It is the College's responsibility to inform parents when SENCo is considering placing the student's name on the SEN register or moving the child between stages. It is essential that parents inform the relevant College staff of any significant needs their child may possess. They should do this as early as possible. For example, essential information may need to be made available by a parent upon a child's entry to the College.

Parents should be invited as necessary to:

- meet with staff to discuss their child's needs;
- attend review meetings;
- inform staff of changes in circumstances; and
- support targets on IEPs/PLPs.

### **Admissions**

The admission arrangements with respect to the majority of students with SEN must be consistent with the College's general arrangements for all other students.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Order (SENDO) (2005) legislation strengthened the right for children with a Statement to an ordinary school place unless it is against the wishes of parents, or it is incompatible with the efficient education of others. Children who have special educational needs but do not have a statement, must, except in specific circumstances, be educated in an ordinary school (Article 3(1) SENDO, 2005).

Children with Statements of SEN are placed in the school at the request of the Education Authority (EA). When seeking to place a student with a Statement, the EA will take into account the wishes of the child's parents and the provision of efficient education for other children in the class or College and the efficient use of resources to determine the suitability of the placement. This arrangement is in line with SENDO legislation.

### **Accessibility**

Every grant-aided school and independent school is required to have a written accessibility plan which should be publicly available and accessible via the school's website. The focus in the school's accessibility plan is to:

- increase the extent to which disabled students can participate in the College's curriculum. By way of example, this covers teaching and learning and the wider

curriculum of the College such as participation in after-College clubs, leisure, and cultural activities;

- improve the physical environment of the College to increase the extent to which disabled students can take advantage of education and associated services provided or offered by the school; and
- improve the delivery to disabled students of the information which is provided in writing to students who are not disabled. This should be completed within a reasonable time and take into account their disability and any preferences expressed by them or their parents.

### **Accessibility for Students**

At present:

- students with disabilities have equal access to all areas of the College building;
- the College is fully accessible to wheelchair users;
- there are well-equipped facilities for personal care;
- access to a broad and balanced curriculum can be facilitated appropriate to age, ability, aptitude, and attainments; and
- written information can be provided in a variety of formats upon request.

### **Annual Report**

The Board of Governors report annually on all aspects of SEN provision in College. The SEN section in the Annual Report contains information on: the number of statemented students; students that received provision from EA Student Support Services or Health and Social Care Trust; and those that accessed College-delivered special educational provision.

This report is made available to parents at the Annual General Parents' Meeting held in November.

## Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs

It is vitally important that children with SEN are identified as early as possible and that an awareness of their possible difficulties is clearly communicated between all the professionals involved with their development.

*(Code of Practice 1998, paragraph 2.14)*

Children with SEN should be identified as early as possible and assessed as quickly as is consistent with thoroughness.

*(Supplementary Guide of the Code of Practice paragraph 5.12 - page 44)*

In ICD, the following may be used to identify students' needs:

- information from transferring school;
- teacher and support staff observation;
- standardised tests;
- diagnostic assessments;
- whole school assessment (eg CAT/PTE/PTM);
- class tests/school examinations;
- individual education plans;
- care plans;
- personal education plans for children who are looked after;
- statements of special educational need;
- annual reviews;
- professional reports;
- parental contributions;
- student contributions;

## **The Management of Special Educational Needs**

### **The Three Stages of Special Education Provision**

In ICD, we adhere to the three stages of the Code of Practice. These stages focus on the level of intensity of the special educational provision required for a child to make adequate progress commensurate with their abilities and improve their outcomes. Responsibility for students with SEN at each stage lies with the College, given the day-to-day role of the College in a students' teaching and learning, with increasing EA involvement when required. A summary of the three stages of special education provision is set out below:

#### **Stage 1 includes:**

- College delivered special educational provision;
- A PLP is required (currently IEP);
- The majority of special educational needs will be met at this stage;
- The responsibility lies with the College;
- Operates in mainstream schools and classes; and
- Reasonable adjustments and additional strategies and approaches are implemented, aimed at meeting, and addressing the child's SEN.

The PLP (currently IEP) should contain the core information/evidence of the school action to inform a request, if considered necessary, for access to EA SEN services at Stage 2. The child will only move to Stage 2 once any external special educational provision is being implemented.

#### **Stage 2 includes:**

- School-delivered special educational provision plus external provision, for example, the EA or the HSC Trust;
- A PLP is required (currently IEP). A smaller number of children will need this provision;
- The responsibility lies with the school plus external provision from EA;
- Operates in mainstream schools and classes (and by exception in special school or Learning Support Centre (LS Centre) for the purpose of assessment; and
- Reasonable adjustments, additional strategies and approaches are implemented plus resources, advice, guidance, support, and training provided through the EA SEN support services to address the child's SEN.

In the event of a child not making progress, despite the external support from the EA, the child may require consideration for a statutory assessment. A new online form designed to



guide the user through the process is used to make a request for statutory assessment. The PLP (currently IEP) contains the core school information the EA will use to consider and if appropriate make, a statutory assessment.

The student will remain at Stage 2 when a request for a statutory assessment is being considered, is being made and, if appropriate until a Statement is made.

**Stage 3 includes:**

- Students with a statement of SEN;
- College and EA delivered special educational provision plus any relevant treatment or service identified by the HSC Trust;
- A PLP is required (currently IEP);
- A smaller number of children will need this provision;
- The responsibility lies with the school and the EA –with input from the HSC Trust where relevant;
- Operates in mainstream schools, LS Centres attached to mainstream schools or special schools (as determined within the child’s statement);
- Reasonable adjustments, the school delivered special educational provision are implemented plus EA provision as set out in the Statement.

At Stage 3, the child has a statement and is receiving special educational provision (as set out in the Statement).

The student’s PLP (IEP) should be revised, to reflect the content of the statement (as it relates to the PLP (IEP) including the SEN category (or categories); setting intended outcomes based on the objectives of the special educational provision and the nature and extent of the EA’s provision including any relevant service and treatment the HSC Trust are to provide; and any additional school provision or modifications to the curriculum, as itemised in the statement; the student’s PLP (IEP) will be subject to regular monitoring, review and evaluation and will form the key basis of educational information to inform the annual review of the statement.

**Exceptional Cases**

In most cases transition through the three-staged assessment process occurs in sequence. However, in exceptional circumstances, students may demonstrate such significant or unforeseen difficulties that with multi-professional and parental agreement a move to a higher stage of need is necessary immediately.

## **The Annual Review**

Article 19 of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 requires that any child or young person who is the subject of a statement of special educational needs, whether attending a special or mainstream school, must be reviewed annually, to make sure that the needs of the child or young person are still being met and to consider the appropriateness of the placement. Annual Reviews should be seen as part of the process of continuous monitoring of the child's progress. The Annual Review procedure is designed to:

- gauge the child's/young person's progress towards meeting the objectives specified in the Statement;
- review the special provision made for the child, including placement; and
- consider the appropriateness of maintaining the statement of special educational needs.

The annual review is carried out by the College on behalf of the EA.

The Review will take place in College and is chaired by the principal (or another person as delegated by the principal).

Relevant forms and the EA's guidance for this process are available by contacting the Statutory Assessment and Review Service (SARS) of the school's local EA office or they can be downloaded from the [EA website](#).

## **Record Keeping**

The SENCo (soon to be Learning Support Coordinator) keeps the following records in school:

- SEN Register;
- records of concern;
- individual education plans/IEP reviews;
- statements/annual reviews/transition plans;
- assessment results/data;
- individual student files;
- record of liaison/meetings with staff from the Education Authority's SEN Support Services/Health and Social Care Trust
- minutes of meetings with parents; and
- support, advice, and training provided to staff.

## **Learning and Teaching**

All children have the right to a broad and balanced curriculum, taking into account the entitlement framework. This involves all staff in utilising a range of teaching strategies and classroom management styles designed to take account of the differing abilities, interests and experiences of students. In order to facilitate this:

- the classroom environment should be inclusive, stimulating and attractive, featuring as much student work as possible on display;
- lessons should be structured in a series of simple clearly defined steps;
- work tasks and activities should be stimulating and differentiated so that students experience success yet challenging enough to promote progression in learning;
- students should be set work to allow them to progress at their own rate;
- encouragement should be given to students to take responsibility for their own learning;
- sensitivity should be shown by staff to student's literacy and numeracy difficulties and how this impacts on communication. This needs to be taken into consideration when giving instructions; and
- positive feedback should be provided by staff and the achievements of students with SEN celebrated.

## **Access Arrangements for Examinations**

“Access Arrangements are pre-examination adjustments for candidates based on evidence of need and normal way of working.” ([Joint Council for Qualifications](#))

There are two types of Access Arrangements

- arrangements put in place by schools (delegated to centres); and
- arrangements that require prior JCQ awarding body approval.

Students with special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries may need Access Arrangements to allow them to access the assessment. These arrangements are put in place without changing the demands of the assessment. For example, readers, scribes and Braille question papers.

- Deirdre Mc Carroll is the in-house designated assessor and will assess candidates, process applications online and hold the evidence for inspection purposes for GCSE and/or GCE qualifications.

- The SENCo, fully supported by teaching staff and members of the senior leadership team, must lead on the access arrangements/reasonable adjustments process within his/her school (centre).
- The SENCo must work with teaching staff, support staff (such as Adult Assistants) and exams office personnel to ensure that approved access arrangements/ reasonable adjustments are put in place for internal school tests, mock examinations and examinations.

### **Monitoring the Progress of Students with Special Educational Needs**

It is the responsibility of the SENCo (LSC) to ensure that the progress of students on the SEN register is monitored. This may be achieved by considering that:

- individual education plans are monitored and reviewed for quality, progression, and appropriateness through meeting with teachers on a regular basis;
- evidence is collated to demonstrate whether the student is making progress; and
- information gathered is used in future planning for intervention and to inform movement either up or down through the stages of the Code of Practice.

### **Professional Development**

The principal in consultation with the SENCo (soon to be Learning Support Co-ordinator) oversees the professional development of all staff in his/her school. It is essential that all staff are keep-up-to date with SEN developments to provide effective teaching and support for students.

Following attendance at relevant internal or external education and training programmes, staff members should be encouraged to disseminate the information provided to build the capacity of their colleagues.

The SENCo (LSC) should keep a record of all training attended by or delivered to staff in relation to SEN.

### **Partnership working**

In College we work with a range of EA Student Support Services, where appropriate, to receive training and guidance to support the school and parents in meeting the needs of

children with special educational and medical needs. Examples of EA [Student Support Services](#) may include:

- Autism Advisory and Intervention Service (AAIS)
- Sensory Service
- Special Educational Needs Inclusion Service (SENIS)
- Literacy Service
- Transition service

Other services may include:

- [Behaviour Support and Provisions](#)
- [Education Psychology Service](#)

#### **Other Support Services** (for example)

- Barnardo's
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Child Development Clinic (CDC)
- Independent Counselling Service for Schools (ICSS)
- Young Person's Partnership (YPP)
- REACH Programme
- REACH Mentoring
- Other

#### **Other Educational Settings**

Under the entitlement framework where links are established with other schools, Further Education Colleges and/or work placements, it is essential that all relevant information pertaining to students with SEN is communicated effectively, in order to ensure the best outcomes for each student.

## Complaints

All complaints regarding SEN will be dealt in line with the College's existing complaints procedures.

If you have any queries in relation to special educational needs of a child with a Statement or who is currently being assessed for a statement of special educational needs, you can contact your local [EA Office](#). Please contact your SEN Link Officer in the first instance. Contact details should be on the EA documentation issued to you alongside your child's statement.

## Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Service (DARS)

The [Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Service \(DARS\)](#) provides an independent, confidential forum to resolve or reduce the disagreement, in relation to special educational provision, between parents and school/Boards of Governors or the EA for students who are on the Code of Practice where previous attempts to do so have been unsuccessful.

Parents can contact the service which is provided by [Global Mediation](#).

Involvement with DARS will not affect the right to appeal to the Special Education Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST)

## Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST)

The [Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal \(SENDIST\)](#) considers parents' right to appeal against the decisions made by the Education Authority about their child's special educational needs whenever an agreement cannot be reached.

This service also addresses claims of disability discrimination in school.

## Monitoring and evaluating the SEN Policy

The SEN policy will be reviewed annually. It will be amended as appropriate in light of changes in legislation or practice following targeted consultation with all staff members, parents, and external agencies. This policy will be brought to the Board of Governors for final approval.

Policy Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature of Principal:.....

Signature of Chairperson of Board of Governors: .....

Review Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_