

## The Link Academy

### Special Educational Needs and Disability Information report

This SEND Information Report outlines information regarding the ways in which we provide support for all students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), in order to realise their full potential, make outstanding academic and personal progress and grow to be equipped for their future lives. Provision may change and develop over time.

The information required to be included in this SEND Information Report is stated in **The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 SCHEDULE 1: Information to be included in the SEN information report**. This can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/1530/schedule/1/made>

Key SEN- refers to the Special Educational Needs team  
SEND- refers to a pupil with Special Educational needs and/or Disability

Regulation	Question from/to parents/carers?	School response
1. The kinds of Special Educational Needs and Disability that are provided for.	<i>What are the kinds of SEND for which provision is available at The Link?</i>	Children are identified as having SEND when they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children the same age.  At The Link we support students in the four broad areas of SEND: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communication and Interaction.</li><li>• Cognition and Learning.</li><li>• Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties.</li><li>• Sensory or Physical difficulties.</li></ul>

<p>2. Policies for identifying and assessing the needs of pupils with SEND, including the name and contact details of the SENCo.</p>	<p><i>How do we know if a pupil needs extra help? Who is the SENCo and how can she/he be contacted?</i></p>	<p>When pupils first start at The Link Academy information from a range of sources is used to identify and assess pupils to see if they have SEND which requires additional support. This includes information from parents/carers; primary school teachers; end of key stage 2 levels; base line testing; literacy and numeracy induction tests; subject teachers; specialist colleagues and external agencies.</p> <p>As pupils progress through the school there are regular assessments and subsequent monitoring of their progress. This comes in many forms and is carried out by the SEN team, subject teachers, lead teachers, pastoral leads, senior leaders and external agencies to ensure that the provision being provided suits the needs of the individual and is having impact.</p> <p>All pupils with SEND are on the SEN register which is accessible to all staff. Staff use information provided by the SEN department to inform appropriate lesson planning which includes differentiation so that all pupils can access the curriculum.</p> <p>Targeted interventions are planned, delivered and evaluated where appropriate, for pupils with SEND this may include small group or individual work.</p> <p>Our SENCo is Miss D Weir and our SEN Manager is Mrs J Crew, telephone number 01384 816500</p>
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<p>3a. Arrangements for consulting with parents of children with SEND and involving them in their child's/children's education including assessing and reviewing their progress towards outcomes.</p>	<p><i>How will I know how my child is getting on in school?</i></p>	<p>Reviews take place at regular intervals for pupils on the SEN register at K or EHCP (using both internal and external data). Parents are invited to these review meetings to contribute to the targets and see how home and school can work collaboratively. All pupils, including those with SEN are assessed on a regular basis. Teachers formally assess and review progress and attainment at least 3 times a year which is communicated to parents/carers through progress reports or full subject reports that are sent home. Additionally, progress evenings and academic mentoring days provide opportunities for parents/carers to discuss progress, attainment and next steps.</p> <p>The Link Academy prides itself on its strong pastoral care and parents/carers are encouraged to contact and interact with school if they have concerns about their child/children, this is supported further by the SEN team who support the work of the pastoral team for pupils with SEND.</p>
<p>3b. Arrangements for consulting young people with SEND and involving them in their education</p>	<p><i>How will The Link listen to and involve my child, with SEND, in planning for their education?</i></p>	<p>Alongside the strong pastoral ethos the SEN team support pupils with SEND. Pupils are encouraged to talk about their education, the provision they receive and this information feeds into their Learner Profiles. Ownership of their targets is an important part of the assess, plan, do and review cycle. All pupils are encouraged to attend progress evenings and review meetings. For statutory annual reviews of EHCPs, pupils are invited to attend alongside professionals and their parents/carers.</p>

<p>4. The school's arrangements for supporting pupils in moving between phases of education and preparing for adulthood</p>	<p><i>How will the school prepare and support pupils with SEND when joining The Link or transferring to a new school or post-16 provision?</i></p>	<p>Additionally to the details listed in section 2 there is a strong transition package from KS2-3 for pupils with SEND. Examples include close liaison with the primary school SENCOs, additional visits for identified pupils, staff training to prepare them for the new intake and SENCO and or SEN Manager has input into the setting of pupils based on all available data.</p> <p>Extensive work is carried out with pupils with SEND to ensure that they make appropriate option pathway choices at the end of year 9 For pupils Year 11 learners who have an EHCP; Connexions are invited to annual reviews. Advice from Connexions forms part of the 'moving forward plan' for life post 16. Staff have high expectations of and for pupils with SEND. Opportunities are provided for pupils with SEND to attend additional transition visits to local post 16 providers</p> <p>Where appropriate targets for learner profiles are set in order to promote independence in preparation for adult life.</p>
<p>5. The school's approach to teaching pupils with special educational needs</p>	<p><i>How do staff help pupils with SEND?</i></p>	<p>All teachers are teachers of pupils with SEND. All staff have high expectations of all pupils, including those with SEND. Teaching staff are informed about your child's individual needs and have experience and/or are appropriately trained to adapt their lessons to meet these requirements.</p> <p>Within school there are a variety of staff roles to help us fully support your child. There are a range of internal interventions that are implemented when needed, additional to this are external agencies that offer specialist provision/support as necessary. The principal continues to ensure that funding is readily available to provide an appropriate level of support for pupils with SEND</p>

<p>6. How the school adapts the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with special educational needs</p>	<p><i>How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?</i></p> <p><i>How accessible is the school environment?</i></p>	<p>All pupils follow an appropriate curriculum, be this baccalaureate or basics pathway. There are a small number of pupils who have a more personalised curriculum to match their individual needs, interests and abilities.</p> <p>Our school is a safe and accessible building and we do our best to make it welcoming to the whole community. All safeguarding procedures and risk assessments are in place and adhered to by staff.</p> <p>We have a range of different facilities to help SEND students throughout our school including a number of lifts, disabled toilets, ramps in some areas, meaning the school is fully DDA compatible.</p>
<p>7. Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and about how specialist expertise will be secured</p>	<p><i>What training have the staff supporting children and young people with SEND had or are having?</i></p>	<p>The schools Continued Professional Development Programme addresses emerging needs and is regularly reviewed. This programme may involve using different strategies and more practical adaptation of resources and activities, with the aim that all pupils can access the lessons fully. Staff who are new to the school follow an induction programme which includes training and information on pupils with SEND. The Learning Support department is made up of the SENCo, SEN Manager, 2 HLTAs, 1 level 3 TAs and 8 level 2 TAs. Within this team there are staff who have a range of experience and training, covering various SEN needs including the National SENCo Qualification; NVQ Level 2/3/4 qualifications, Behaviour Support; Supporting students with ASD; Supporting students with ADHD; Attachment Issues, Amanuensis training, Access arrangements, Child Protection, First Aid, support of students with physical and sensory difficulties, speech and language difficulties, social emotional and mental health difficulties. The Link Academy buys into appropriate local authority traded services as well as private sector professionals including an Educational Psychologist and Dudley Counselling Service.</p>



<p>9. How the school enables pupils with special educational needs to engage in the activities of the school (including physical activities) together with children who do not have special educational needs</p>	<p><i>What social, before and after school, and other activities are available for pupils with SEND?</i></p> <p><i>How can my child and I find out about these activities?</i></p> <p><i>How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom, including school trips?</i></p>	<p>A large range of academic, sporting and other extra-curricular clubs are available at The Link Academy. These are open to all pupils, including students with SEND. Additionally we run a range of activities to support SEND students including a breakfast and Homework Club, break time and lunch club in the learning support base.</p> <p>The Extra-Curricular activities list is available on the schools website. SEND Clubs are advertised to students through the learning support base.</p> <p>All children in the school are encouraged to take part in extra activities at break time, lunchtime and after school. Day and residential trips are open to all children and your child's specific needs and the reasonable adjustment which may need to be made can be discussed if they wish to join such a trip.</p>
<p>10. Support that is available for improving the emotional, mental and social development of pupils with special educational needs</p>	<p><i>What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?</i></p>	<p>At The Link Academy we take our pastoral responsibilities seriously. We pride ourselves on providing a high level of pupil support and guidance. One way we support our pupils is by assigning them to a form tutor who will (where possible) remain with them as they progress up the school. This provides continuity and builds a strong relationship between tutor and pupils.</p> <p>There are additional members of staff who are able to provide pastoral support, these include: The Heads of House, Parental Link Worker, School Counselling service, the SENCo, SEN Manager, Mental Health first aiders and Pastoral support assistants. Excellent relationships have been established with a number of external agencies for example: Speech and language team, Autism outreach, CAMHs, Hearing/Visual Impairment service and Dudley Learning Support Service. There is also an independently employed Educational Psychologist.</p> <p>The Link Academy has a strong anti-bully ethos and is a telling school. The SEN and pastoral teams work collaboratively to ensure that there is clarity and pupil safety at all levels.</p>

<p>11a. How the governing body involves other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and in supporting the families of such pupils</p>	<p><i>What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?</i></p>	<p>The Link Academy can access a range of services including; Children's Services, the Educational Psychologist; Connexions; Speech and Language Service; Occupational Therapy Service; Autism Outreach Service; Learning Support Service; Physical Impairment and Medical inclusion Service. Hearing Impairment Team; Visual Impairment Team, Learning Support Service. These services are contacted when necessary and appropriate, according to the individual pupils needs. The school works closely with Dudley LEA and uses the Early Intervention/Help process when appropriate to do so.</p>
<p>11b. Pupils with SEND who are also looked after.</p>	<p><i>Is there anything different for CLA pupils?</i></p>	<p>The designated CLA teacher (Mr M Robbs) oversees the provision for all children who are looked after. All children who are looked after have a Personal Education Plan which are reviewed termly.</p>

<p>12. The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs, including those for arrangements made in accordance with section 32.</p>	<p><i>Who should I contact to find out about support for parents and families of children with SEND?</i></p>	<p>The Dudley local offer pages provide information on a range of support services:  Dudley MBC Local Offer information:  <a href="http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/localoffer/">http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/localoffer/</a></p> <p>Dudley SEN Team, Ladies Walk, Sedgley, Dudley DY3 3UA Phone: 01384 814214. Website at: <a href="http://www.dudley.gov.uk/localoffer/">www.dudley.gov.uk/localoffer/</a>.</p> <p>Dudley SENDIASS (formerly Dudley Parent Partnership Service) provides impartial information, advice and support to young people and parents, covering special educational needs (SEN), disability, health and social care. Helpline number:01384 236677  Address: Saltwells Education Centre, Bowling Green Road, Dudley, DY2 9LY <a href="mailto:www.dudley.sendiass@dudley.gov.uk">www.dudley.sendiass@dudley.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Connexions is an organisation which is able to offer advice on learning and work opportunities:  Call: 01384 811400  Email: <a href="mailto:Connexions@dudley.gov.uk">Connexions@dudley.gov.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.connexionsdudley.org/">http://www.connexionsdudley.org/</a></p> <p>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service( CAMHs):  <a href="http://www.dwmh.nhs.uk/child-adolescent-mental-health-servicescamhs/">http://www.dwmh.nhs.uk/child-adolescent-mental-health-servicescamhs/</a> Young Minds  <a href="http://www.youngminds.org.uk/">http://www.youngminds.org.uk/</a></p>
<p>13. Information on where the local authority's local offer is published</p>	<p><i>Where can I find out about other services that might be available for our family and my child?</i></p>	<p>Dudley MBC Local Offer information:  <a href="http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/localoffer/">http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/localoffer/</a></p>

<p>14. Arrangements for handling complaints from parents of children with SEND about the provision made at the school</p>	<p><i>What do I do if I feel my child is not having their needs met?</i></p>	<p>In the first instance parents/carers should contact the school to raise their concerns to any member of staff but preferably to the SEN team, namely Miss D Weir or Mrs J Crew. This can be by telephone or letter. There is a complaints policy available on request or on the website.</p>
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