



DAYSRING TRUST – NOW NORTHERN LIGHTS LEARNING TRUST

Venerable Bede CE Academy SEND Report to Directors

Northern Lights Learning Trust (NLLT) have adopted all policies pertaining to Dayspring Trust – Ian Ramsey CE Academy and Venerable Bede CE Academy – from 1 February 2023 and will be reviewed in due course.

Ratified by: Board of Directors
Date of review: Autumn Term 2022
Date of next review: Autumn Term 2023

The Dayspring Trust aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian faith and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. We believe that our Christian values spring from the two great commandments, 'Love God and love your neighbour'. We seek to live this out through the power of the Holy Spirit. St Paul reminds us in Galatians 5.22-23 that the fruit of the Spirit is "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control". These are also underpinned by the Old Testament injunction to "Do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God" Micah 6.8. These values rooted in the Christian Faith come as a package and we aim to embed them in the life of our academies in a worked out way. We recognise that at times we may highlight particular values to bring them into greater prominence within our academies and these are currently the five values of Forgiveness, Hope, Joy, Perseverance and Wisdom. We believe these values to be in accordance with British values springing from our Judeo-Christian roots. Collective worship will play a major and vital part in assisting with this process of embedding these values in the life of our academies.

The Multi Academy Trust Members and Directors are aware of their responsibilities in law and are committed to the provision of an excellent education within its academies in accordance with our Anglican foundation. This is embraced in our Dayspring Trust vision statement:

- **Forge a supportive and challenging family of academies**
- **Provide excellent education within a strong Christian community**
- **Resource our pupils for wise and generous living**

In addition, each academy also has its own distinctive mission statement, flowing out from the vision statement of the Dayspring Trust.

At Ian Ramsey CE Academy:

"Together to learn, to grow, to serve."

This is embodied in scripture:

'Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.' 1. Peter 4.10

At Venerable Bede CE Academy:

"Soar to the heights together"

This is embodied in scripture:

'But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.' Isaiah 40:31

This policy has been developed to take into consideration our ethos as well as local and national policy and guidance.

School profile for SEND

What is SEND:

The Code of Practice 2014 states that a child or young person has a special need if they “have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age”

OR

“have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools”

There are four broad areas of need:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, Emotional Mental Health Difficulties
- Sensory and Physical Difficulties

Academy SEND Overview:

The Academy has a Team of Staff to support pupils with Special Educational Needs including SENDCo, HLTA and TA's.

The SENDCo (Mrs Sally Holt, sally.holt@venerablebede.co.uk) is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operation of the SEND department including:

- Developing and reviewing the SEND Policy
- Updating the SEND Register and pupil information so that staff can plan and deliver appropriately for individual pupils
- Monitoring and reviewing the progress of pupils on the SEND Register
- Liaising with parents so that they are fully informed, and with outside agencies who support our pupils
- Identifying pupils who require access arrangements for exams
- Working with other schools/colleges to ensure a smooth transition when SEND pupils arrive or leave

Approximately 14% of pupils have a Special Educational Need or disability. The register is a working document which is updated continuously. 1.6% of pupils on roll have an Education, Health and Care Plan. Numbers of pupils with particular needs can be seen in the table below. Some pupils have more than one area of need.

The SEND Trustee is Christine Inkster (contact katrina.durrans@venerablebede.co.uk)

Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		Year 10		Year 11	
SEN	EHCP	SEN	EHCP	SEN	EHCP	SEN	EHCP	SEN	EHCP
21.8%	4	21.9%	2	16%	4	27.9%	1	22.1%	2

1 pupil on the SEND register is currently undergoing an EHCP assessment.

The table below identifies 186 pupils with SEN. This figure is not an accurate representation of pupil per year group due to those pupils identified as having multiple SEN areas of Needs (co-morbidity).

Area of Need	Communication and interaction		Cognition and learning		Social, emotional and mental health difficulties		Sensory and/or physical needs	
Year Group	No. of pupils with this need	No. of pupils with an EHC plan	No. of pupils with this need	No. of pupils with EHC plan	No. of pupils with this need	No. of pupils with an EHC plan	No. of pupils with this need	No. of pupils with an EHC plan
7	13	1	10	2	10	1	0	0
8	14	0	14	1	11	1	1	0
9	15	0	6	2	8	2	3	1
10	16	0	11	0	13	1	3	0
11	6	0	9	1	8	1	1	0
Total	64	1	50	6	50	6	8	1
*SEMH includes those pupils with a diagnosis of ADHD								

31 Year 7 pupils have been placed on the Teacher Support Register due to concerns regarding possible underlying (undiagnosed) SEND. A further 110 pupils in years 8-11 are also on the Teacher Support register.

Identifying pupils with SEND

How the school identifies pupils with SEND

- The SENDCo and/or the Pastoral Team liaise with all Primary Schools to ensure that information on pupils arriving into the Academy in Y7 is shared in line with the Local Authority Transition Protocol (or with other schools in the case of any other admission).
- At the start of Y7 all pupils are assessed to ascertain their cognitive abilities (including reading). The SEND team leads these assessments and identifies pupils who need support.
- Subject teachers and parents share concerns about pupils if there is a need. The SEND team gather information, assess the need and offer support if needed.
- EAL pupils are assessed to determine their level of understanding and what support they might need. The SEND team leads these assessments.

Special Educational Provision may be triggered when pupils fail to achieve adequate progress, despite having had access to a differentiated programme. Parents, carers and staff will be informed that the child has special educational needs and appropriate provision will be identified to meet the pupil's individual need(s).

Lack of adequate progress **may** be indicated by:

- Little or no progress despite the use of targeted teaching approaches and a differentiated curriculum
- Working at levels significantly below age expectations, particularly in Literacy or Numeracy.
- Presenting persistent social and emotional difficulties, which have not been managed by appropriate strategies usually employed.

- Sensory or physical impairments that result in little progress despite the provision of appropriate aids or equipment.
- Poor communication or interaction, requiring specific interactions and adaptations to access learning.

What happens once a pupil has been identified

The academy uses the **graduated response** as outlined in “The Code of Practice (2014)”. To help with this process, a variety of screening procedures are used, which are then disseminated to Teaching staff.

Primary liaison

- Primary schools are visited/contacted throughout the year prior to transition. Any pupil identified as having a SEND need is referred to the SENDCO.
- The LA notifies the school about pupils who are transferring with EHC plans in the spring of their Year 5 where practicable. The SENDCO attends their Annual Review in year 6 to ensure a smooth transition is made. At transition, the SENDCO becomes the LEAD Professional for the child with an EHC plan. Relevant information is disseminated to teaching staff before transfer via the pupil Student Support Plan.
- Information based on the results of national tests undertaken by pupils.

Additional tests available for pupils who may require further interventions include:

- Dyslexia screening
- Visual stress test
- WRAT4 word, reading and sentence comprehension
- GORT4 reading
- DASH speed handwriting.
- Digit memory test
- Dyscalculia screening
- Sandwell Early Numeracy test
- WRAT4 Numeracy

Screening in other year groups

Additional screening tests are administered when required; these are administered through a team of qualified professionals who specialise in the identification of barriers to learning and the delivery of intervention. In Year 9 pupils on the SEND register will be assessed for examination ‘access arrangements’. All our outcomes will be communicated to parents/carers by letter.

Staff Observation

- Members of staff consult with the SENDCO if they notice pupils who may need specialist help during the school year. Evidence for that concern must be produced, prior to any testing and / or additional intervention being undertaken. Parents are fully consulted as part of this process.
- The SENDCO may then ask for additional diagnostic assessment to be undertaken by other professionals.

Referrals by Parents or Carers

- A pupil's parent/carer may express concern. Once information is gathered the process is the same as for staff referrals.
- All parental referrals are acted upon.

Progress made by pupils with SEND

How Progress is monitored and reported:

- Progress of all pupils is monitored continually by subject teachers and Heads of Area.
- Progress Reports are sent to parents every term and an Annual Report is also issued.
- The SENDCO is available at all Parents' Evenings to discuss any concerns parents might have in addition to discussions with their child's subject teachers.
- For pupils with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP), there is a formal review meeting every year with all relevant adults and the pupil invited to the meeting. Interim reviews are also held if appropriate.

2022 LEAVERS

Most exams and assessments did not take place in the 2019/20 or 2020/21 academic years, due to the impact of COVID-19. School / college level results data was therefore not published in autumn 2020 or autumn 2021. Progress 8 for 2022 requires changes to its baseline, as KS2 outcomes have been reported as scaled scores instead of national curriculum levels since 2016. Secondary accountability guidance will be updated by the DfE during autumn 2022 - **Progress 8 scores are therefore pending.**

Update on the school's implementation of the SEND system

Provision

Teaching pupils with SEND is a whole school responsibility. Central to the work of every teacher and subject is a continuous cycle of planning, teaching, assessment and evaluation that takes account of the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests of the pupils. The majority of pupils at Venerable Bede CE Academy learn and progress through these differentiated arrangements.

A Graduated Response is adopted for pupils identified as having SEND. A level and type of support is provided to enable the pupil to achieve at least adequate progress. Provision is identified and managed by the SENDCO but will be planned and delivered by teaching and support staff.

Graduated Response

- **Wave 1** - Quality first teaching by all teaching staff.
- **Wave 2** - Is initiated where pupils have failed to make adequate progress as identified by the SENDCO through the assessment arrangements.

Criteria for Wave 2 include:

- Low Numeracy/Literacy scores
- KS2 score(s) of below 100
- Teacher's observations
- Primary teacher's comments
- Concerns from staff or parents

Provision from within the school's resources is identified to help meet the pupil's needs.

Interventions may include:

- Additional learning programmes such as Fresh Start
- Smaller group sessions and extraction groups for English and Mathematics delivered by HLTAs
- Small intervention groups for dyslexia, spelling, reading comprehension difficulties and social skills
- Appropriate teaching groups/sets
- Group support on a regular basis

Wave 3

- Where pupils fail to make adequate progress, despite additional provision at Wave 2, the school seeks advice and involvement from external support services such as the Language and Learning Team and Educational Psychology Service. We may also seek support from CAMHS/CYPS.

They are requested to:

- Provide specialist assessments
- Give advice on teaching strategies or materials
- Provide short-term support or training for staff
- The Pupil's Learner Profile is revised and new strategies are put in place following the involvement of pupil and parents. Should the assessments identify that a pupil with an EHC Plan requires additional provision on a regular basis for an extended period then the school will apply for additional resources. The application will be evaluated against criteria established by the LA.

EHCP Assessment

If a pupil fails to make adequate progress and has demonstrated a significant cause for concern, the School and/or a parent /carer may decide to request that the LA begins the EHCP Process. This may lead to the pupil being provided with an EHCP. Information about any statutory assessments for EHC plans that have been submitted to the local authority (LA) and the outcomes of these shared with parents.

SEND Funding

All Pupils with SEND have access to the academy's notional SEN budget up to £6,000. We use this to provide support across the curriculum, depending upon need. Some pupils with SEND may also meet the national criteria to access additional funding, identified in their EHCP.

Any decision to consider an application for additional funding would be made after careful consideration by the SENDCo, Senior Leadership Team and key trust staff.

- Staffing: SENDCo/Assistant Headteacher, Assistant SENDCo, full time Lead Practitioner for Medication, Physical and Mental Health and 8 LSAs (6 full time, 2-part time).
- A HLTA post will be advertised shortly
- Laptops for pupils to access the curriculum
- Support in practical lessons where applicable
- Costed provision maps for SEND pupils
- Those who are also eligible for Pupil Premium are provided with additional support and resources (see Pupil Premium Strategy Statement)

Staff development

Staff training

All members of the SEND department have attended Pivotal training sessions throughout the school year. They have also participated in CPD sessions focusing on supporting children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. All LSAs have completed CPD on managing challenging behaviours and have participated in grief and loss sessions with Washington Mind.

This year, a significant focus of the SEND Department has been the setting up of our key worker system. All LSAs have engaged with numerous sessions preparing them for their role as a keyworker and helping them to develop their role. (Each child on the SEND register is allocated a key worker who completes pupil voice activities and regularly contacts parents to ensure lines of communication are clear).

All LSAs have completed the 5 week iCAMHS Mental Health course, delivered by Community CAMHS. They have also participated in CPD carousels that allowed them to develop their knowledge of spreadsheets, organising trips and visits and communicating effectively with parents/carers. All LSAs attended training delivered by our school EP, focusing on strategies to support the learning of pupils with complex needs.

3 LSAs have attended courses individually and have fed back to the department. These courses focused on ASD and anxiety.

The Assistant SENDCo and HLTA are now qualified as Youth Mental Health First Aiders.

The Assistant SENDCo and The Lead Practitioner for Physical and Mental Health have completed their DSL training in order to build more capacity within the department.

The Lead Practitioner for Physical and Mental Health attended diabetes awareness training with the nursing team and regularly attends CAMHS Emotional Wellbeing cluster meetings. She has also qualified in the 'Breathings Space' mindfulness intervention.

The SENDCo, Assistant SENDCo, Lead Practitioner and 1 LSA completed a 1 day 'Managing Medications' course.

The SENDCo and Assistant SENDCo have attended training with the charity 'Just Like Us' to prepare us to launch our own Pride Group.

All SEN staff have attended CPD on metacognition.

The SENDCo completed a two day course for Senior Mental Health Leads with the Anna Freud Centre. This was funded by the DfE.

Areas of Development

- The current Year 7 cohort is presenting with a number of challenges around supporting pupils identified as SEN. The academy is working quickly to identify those barriers to learning and to refer pupils to the relevant external agencies.
- The number of children with EHCPs is increasing significantly – we are working to ensure staffing is in place to best support these pupils.
- The recruitment of LSAs is a national challenge at present - we continue to recruit and retain LSAs in order to cover EHCP hours and interventions.
- Mental Health continues to be an area of focus due to the impact of the pandemic. Waiting lists are now 6 months for CAMHS and 12 -18 months for CYPS. The Assistant SENDCo and HLTA, who are now qualified as Youth Mental Health First Aiders, alongside our School Counsellor and LSA support team continue to provide interim support.
- The number of pupils with a diagnosis of ASD continues to grow. CPD, for all, staff remains a key focus to ensure that we can best support pupils with both a diagnosis and those on the pathway to diagnosis.

Work with external agencies

The academy currently works in conjunction with:

- EDK Educational Psychology
- Autism Outreach Team
- Physiotherapy service
- Occupational Therapy service
- Language and Learning Team
- Physical Disabilities Team at Oxclose
- CAMHS
- CYPS
- CNDS
- Educational Psychologist for Together for Children.
- Counselling with Washington Mind
- Behaviour Support Service
- Evolve (The Returners' Unit)
- Washington Mind
- Community Paediatrics
- Nursing Team
- The Link School Behaviour Hub