



# Policy for students with Special Educational Needs (R.E.A.L. Independent School)

Amended on: 03/09/2019

Review Date: 03/09/2020

## **Revision history:**

03/09/2019 - Revised in light of changes to QA practices and addition of learner voice throughout.

01.11.18 Revised in light of Working together to Safeguard Children 2018

15.07.16 - Revised in the light of SEND code of practice changes / EHCP

01/03/2014: - No amendments to policy.

01/03/2012: - Policy written for R.E.A.L. Independent Schools.



## Policy

This Policy is updated annually and has been developed in line with the following legislation and guidance:

- SEND Code of Practice (2014)
- Equality Act (2010)
- The Children and Families Act (2014)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019)

The policy should be read in conjunction with the following REAL Independent School Policies:

- The Management of Behaviour
- Preventing Bullying Policy
- Learner Voice
- Admissions
- Assessment
- Curriculum
- Safeguarding
- Accessibility Plan
- Health and Safety and First Aid
- Medication policy
- Transitions policy

## Introduction

R.E.A.L. Independent School places children and young people at the heart of their learning experience. We focus on the needs of those with significant and complex additional needs who may be “lost to learning”, at significant risk of exclusion, or out of school with a placement difficult to establish. This group is commonly categorised as having “Special Educational Needs”.

It is important to recognise that at R.E.A.L Independent School we work with the needs of the whole child, not just the special educational needs of our young people. There are factors we consider that may not be categorised as Special Educational Needs such as:

- Disability
- Attendance and punctuality



- Health and Welfare
- Having English as an additional language (EAL)
- Being in receipt of pupil premium
- Being a looked after child
- Being the child of a service man/woman

We work with a range of children and young people for whom the learning experience has previously failed in either mainstream or special school. In order to reverse the identified pattern of failure, we promote a culture of respect alongside healthy and productive attitudes towards learning by developing an ethos of high expectations, high aspirations and high levels of achievement when compared with a baseline, enabling each young person to achieve their potential. A key to the success of this approach is the value we place on the nurturing of quality relationships in building trust for productive learning experiences.

In our work we are truly committed to re-thinking engagement and approaches to learning through the recruitment of staff fully committed to “going the extra mile”. This is embodied in a team of experienced, skilled and enthusiastic professionals, fully focused on empowering young people to prepare for their long term aspirations through a solution focused – “can do” – approach that will create realistic outcomes and appropriate pathways into adulthood, whether that be employment or further education..

We know that many young people and their families who engage with this approach initially have significantly poor self-esteem and aspirations. By providing a vibrant and progressive culture and climate of continuous innovation, we “raise the bar” on achievement and attainment whilst building self-esteem, ambition and resilience.

We take an explicit, evidence-based approach to fostering the development of the emotional health and well-being of our learners, which we begin at induction. We draw on a range of approaches that have been shown to improve well-being and we integrate these into our work in both explicit and indirect ways. We see this as a core element of our work.

We are focused upon a commitment to improvement, based on continuous and consistent professional evaluation and analysis of our performance and current and future needs. To achieve this, we actively seek the participation of all stakeholders in striving to secure continued improvement.

This policy sets out some of the structures and strategies we have in place to support our aims.



## Who is the policy for?

This policy refers to young people with special educational needs and or disabilities (SEND) with whom we work. It explains why and how R.E.A.L. Independent School works with them. The guiding principle informing this policy is to ensure that young people with SEN and disabilities are given equal opportunities to fulfil their academic and personal potential and are enabled and encouraged to feel worthy and important members of the school society. The Children and Families Act 2014 states that a child has special educational needs if he/she has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children in the same age group or has a disability which either prevents or hinders him/her from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age group in mainstream schools within the local authority (LA). Special educational provision includes that which is additional to, or different from, the provision generally made for pupils of the same age.

Pupils with SEND supported by R.E.A.L. Independent School could have difficulties with one or more of the following:

- Cognition and Learning
- Communication and Interaction
- Behaviour, Emotional, Social or Mental difficulties
- Sensory and/or physical needs

## Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- To ensure that the school complies with the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice 2014 (updated for 2016/2017), the Equality Act 2010 and other relevant statutory guidance and that these requirements are implemented effectively within the school.
- To ensure that every pupil with special educational needs:-
  - achieves their best
  - become confident individuals living fulfilling lives, and
  - make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training



## RIS Leadership and Governor objectives for making provision for pupils with SEND

RIS leaders and Governors will:

- Ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has SEND.
- Quality assure the management of personalised learning programmes
- Determine the key responsibilities of Learning Managers and monitor the effectiveness of their undertaking of those responsibilities.
- Make sure that all staff are aware of the importance of and are skilled in identifying and making provision for the specific needs of pupils.
- Make sure that parents/carers are fully consulted with regards to their child's education
- Make sure our learner views are a central part of reviewing their learning programmes.
- Make sure that pupils with SEND have access to quality learning experiences in line with their mainstream peers, so far as is reasonably practical and compatible with their needs and wishes.
- Make sure that, where the named Learning Manager at R.E.A.L. Independent School has been informed by the LA that a pupil has SEND, the use of an EHCP and regular reviews will inform practice and changes to provision
- Make sure that the named Learning Manager will liaise with all staff working with SEND pupils regularly, updating them with regards to their SEND, and advising on appropriate strategies to use and outcomes to be worked towards.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the SEND policy of the school and work appropriately with all young people who have SEND.
- Have regard to both the SEND Code of Practice as well as the Equalities Act (2010) when carrying out our duties toward all pupils with SEND.
- Work in partnership with parents/carers and with relevant agencies when providing for individual pupil needs and ensure that parents/carers are made aware of the LA's Local Offer and how to access it.
- Ensure the quality assurance of services commissioned by the school and gather reports on the progress of children on their roll.
- Report regularly to parents on their child's progress and on the implementation of the School's SEND policy.



## Implementation

R.E.A.L. Independent School has regard to all the requirements of the SEND Code of Practice 2014. (Including amendments made for 2016/2017) The SEND Code promotes a common and graduated approach to identifying, assessing and providing for pupils' special educational needs. The approach is a model of action and intervention to help young people who have SEND make, at the very least, adequate progress and successfully access a curriculum that is appropriate to their needs. It recognises that there is a continuum of SEND and that, where necessary, increasing specialist expertise should be brought to bear on the difficulties that a young person may be experiencing.

For most students who attend R.E.A.L. Independent School, previous schools will have identified the student's SEND and a number of early intervention strategies will have been attempted. R.E.A.L. Independent School will provide specialist support to meet the students' complex additional needs. Tutors are therefore expected to look carefully at differentiating their approach to meet the specific learning needs of each pupil. All tutors focus on personalising teaching and learning as well as a regularly assessing the impact of specific interventions

## Arrangements for co-ordinating the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs at the School

Each student at R.E.A.L. Independent School has a designated Learning Manager who fulfils the role attributed to a school's SENCO. The Head teacher, together with the senior leadership team, co-ordinates and monitors the work of these Learning Managers.

A list of all teaching and support staff with training and experience in SEND is available on request from the HR Department.

## Identification and Assessment

Identification of particular individual needs of pupils is a collaborative process between referrers, our referral and assessment lead, Learning Manager, pupil, parents and carers, with additional expertise provided as and when appropriate from the School's Educational Psychologist, advisory staff for autistic spectrum disorders, specific learning difficulties, the CAMHS team, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and medical and nursing services.

- Identification and assessment of SEND is usually made ahead of referral to R.E.A.L. Independent School.



- Referral information is provided at initial planning meetings; completed paperwork will give pen picture, risk management, EHCP where possible and previous academic history.
- On entry, baseline assessment information is gathered to evaluate the starting point for each learner. This is usually, though not always, gathered by our referral and assessment lead or members of our R.E.A.L. Education referral and assessment team. There may often be a dip in attainment levels from those previously recorded due to the complex nature of the casework.(ie if learners have been out of school for a significant length of time before coming on the roll of R.E.A.L Independent School.
- Learning Managers meet with all teaching and support staff to identify an appropriate personalised approach for each student.
- Assessment is a continuous process throughout a child's time with us. This ensures progress and high expectations are maintained.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the Learning Manager if they have concerns about the progress of their child.

## SEND Provision

Needs and provision for pupils with Education Health Care Plans is determined by the LA and are met through funding resources provided directly by the LA and from schools. When planning a programme of education for a child with an Education Health Care Plan, we make sure that it meets the requirements set out in the Plan. Person centred reviews are held in a way appropriate to the individual learner needs, to ensure maximum participation from learners in their plan.

All staff at R.E.A.L. Independent School are equipped to support pupils with SEN. All teachers and support staff receive in-service training in identifying and supporting pupils who require an education offer that is additional to and different from their previous experiences in mainstream or special education.

Staff help pupils with SEND to access a balanced and broadly based curriculum by:

- Helping them improve their skills in core subjects in a manner that suits their learning style and needs
- Looking at other subjects they are interested in, and trying to incorporate these into their individualised curriculum.



- Creating stimulating and exciting approaches to learning. These include frequent opportunities for 'learning outside the classroom'.
- Differentiating schemes of work.
- Providing alternative and appropriate teaching strategies and approaches.
- Providing interpreters where learners require this to be able to access lessons. (ie for learners whose first language is BSL or any other language)

### **Curriculum Co-ordinators**

Curriculum coordinators in Maths, English, Science, PSHCE, PE, STEM and computing, develop resources and provide support to tutors delivering their subject. They often look for new ideas and initiatives to make their subjects more interesting and motivating for our learners.

### **Provision for sensory and/or physical needs**

- Links are made to appropriate specialist support as required for the specific needs of students. OT is sourced where appropriate and several staff have been trained to deliver programmes by the OT of a neighbouring Independent School.

### **Provision for Communication and Interaction Difficulties**

- R.E.A.L. Independent School supports the work of the Autism Education Trust and regularly holds training workshops to level 3.
- R.E.A.L. employs the support of 2 autism specialists who provide training, advice and support to staff and to parents.

### **Support for Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties**

- R.E.A.L. Independent School employs the support of a behaviour specialist to provide training and support to staff
- R.E.A.L. Independent School has developed a model of personal development and well-being, supervised by an educational psychologist, aimed at supporting personal progress of students in this area.
- SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) within the curriculum is used with some learners where appropriate.



## Access arrangements

Access arrangements for examinations are organised by either the Learning Manager, subject leads or KS2/3 and KS4/5 curriculum co-ordinators.

## Staffing Arrangements

The SENCO role is fulfilled on an individual basis by Learning Managers. Their work is supervised by the leads for KS2/3 and KS4/5 provision, with the Headteacher having an overview of the implementation of this policy.

### Headteacher and leadership team responsibilities:

- having high expectations and aspirations for every learner on the school roll
- overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEND policy;
- liaising with and advising fellow teachers;
- managing the team of teachers and learning support assistants;
- Ensuring EHCP reviews are held within legal timeframes, unless there is an agreed reason why not from all professionals, parents and carers

### Learning manager responsibilities:

- having high expectations and aspirations for every learner they manage.
- coordinating provision for pupils that will ensure high expectations and achievement;
- overseeing and ensuring the records on all pupils are accurate and up to date;
- liaising with parents/carers of pupils on a regular basis;
- liaising with external agencies, including educational psychology services, careers services, medical and social services and voluntary bodies
- making further referrals to specialists / other professionals where necessary
- monitoring the effectiveness of any SEND provision made for the pupil;
- measuring the impact of specific, tailored interventions
- securing relevant services for the pupil where necessary;
- ensuring that learners make progress in their engagement, learning, social skills and independence
- coordinating the work and planning of all staff working with the pupil
- advising staff about differentiated teaching methods appropriate for the individual pupil
- ensuring that any pupil premium is spent for the benefit of the learner and with a view of ensuring they meet the outcomes within the EHCP.



**The team working with pupils has specific responsibilities for:**

- Delivering work within a subject, topic or theme set by the learning manager
- Differentiating the work set according to the needs and motivations of the learner
- Advising the learning manager and other team members of strategies and ideas that have worked or have not worked.

**The team will have:**

- expertise in working with vulnerable children and those with severe emotional and behavioural difficulties;
- training and experience in social and communication difficulties where necessary

## Facilities

R.E.A.L. Independent School is often tasked with engaging the exceptionally hard to reach and will always seek to place a student in an environment conducive to their re-engagement in learning. Particular attention will always be paid to the management of health and safety and the management of risk that will include the venue and the individual circumstances of the student.

## Admission Arrangements

See School Admissions Policy and School Prospectus.

## Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

R.E.A.L. Independent School evaluates the success of the education which is provided for children with SEND through:

- Annual School Improvement plan
- Regular monitoring and reviewing, using the Learner Progress Form to track progression
- Quality assurance including learning walks, work scrutiny, drop in visits, moderation of work, deep trawl exercises and observations
- SEND policy reviewed on an annual basis
- Termly Head Teacher reports to the Governors and Directors
- Liaison with and quality assurance from the governor responsible for SEND
- Pupil centred EHCP reviews
- Learner Voice meetings



- Regular liaison with parents/carers

**The Directors and Governing body monitors the work of the Learning Managers through:**

- considering head teacher reports
- considering reports from the Learning Managers;
- half termly R.E.A.L Leadership Team meetings
- weekly Operational meetings
- half termly governor meetings
- SEND governor inspections
- learner voice meetings
- liaising with the Parent/carer group

**Arrangements made by the members of the management group relating to treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with SEN concerning the provision made at the school**

The school Complaints Policy outlines the measures to take in order to make a complaint.

**Arrangements made for In-service training**

R.E.A.L. Independent School is fully committed to ensuring staff are fully familiar with the latest developments and training in all areas of SEND and make regular training events available to all staff. Following whole staff INSET on SEN, steps are taken to ensure that there is a direct impact on the quality of teaching and learning. The leadership team, Directors and Governors will do this through a combination of learning walks, lesson observations, learner voice and interviews.

**External Support Services**

- The school uses the services of an educational psychologist to support its work with all pupils.
- It also involves other outside agencies including Social Services (see Child Protection Policy), School Nurse, Speech and Language therapists, Early Help Unit, and Occupational Therapy, and CAMHS
- Learning managers have regular meetings with the educational psychologist and local authority SEND officers to discuss caseload, progress and strategy.

**The role played by parents/carers of children with SEND**



The School ensures that parents/carers and pupils are involved in decisions about what SEN provision should be made. The R.E.A.L. Independent School recognises that parents hold key information, knowledge and experience to contribute to the shared view of the best way to support behaviour and learning. The views of pupils and their parents/carers are heard and incorporated into the planning to meet their needs.

The overriding aim is to have a productive partnership with parents/carers–

- R.E.A.L. Independent School ensures that parents/carers are kept informed of the work done with their child and that their views, ideas and knowledge is used to help the learner make as much progress as possible.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to contact their designated Learning Manager if there are concerns they wish to discuss.
- Parents/carers are involved in review processes.