

Each day, discovery.



ELTHAM COLLEGE

2 Learning Support Policy

Last reviewed: February 2018



Version Control Information

Reason For Amendment	Name	Date	Main changes
Annual Review	DCR	January 2017	Combined Junior and Senior School policies into one document Clarified charging arrangements.
Review of EAL provision	DCR	June 2017	Clarification of the arrangements for students with English as an Additional Language – Section 13
Recommendation of ISI inspector	AMM	February 2018	Removal of conditional tenses

Other Related Documents

- Education Act 1996;
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2014;
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (2001);
- Students’ Act 2004;
- Every Child Matters 2003;
- Equalities Act 2010;
- Students and Families Act 2014.



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1 Introduction

Learning support within Eltham College is based on the recommendations from the 0-25 SEND Code of Practice, which sets clear expectations on schools to deliver a whole school approach to SEND, with good quality teaching as a first response and a clear focus on outcomes.

The principles of the Code of Practice 2014 take into account the views of students and their families, ensures a joint collaborative approach among professionals in education, health and social care. It focuses on inclusive practices and the removal of barriers to learning, and prepares young people for adulthood. It takes a holistic approach to supporting the young person.

This policy takes account of the Local Offer provided by Bromley LEA. Services across education, health and social care are to be jointly commissioned.

2 Definitions

According to the 2014 Code of Practice, a child has special educational needs if they have learning difficulties that call for special educational provision to be made. A child has learning difficulties if they:

- Have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of students of the same age;
- Have a disability which prevents or hinders the child from making the use of educational facilities at school;
- Are under compulsory school age and falls within the definition of the above or would do so if special educational provision was not made for that child.

The school takes note of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 which prohibits all schools from discriminating against disabled students in their admissions arrangements and the education provided by the school for its students. Reasonable adjustments are made to accommodate the needs of students with SEN.

3 Equal Opportunities

Eltham College acknowledges and fulfils its duties within the Equal Opportunities Act and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act and this is reflected in the school's Ethos and Aims, Pastoral Care policies. The care for each student is central to the school's aims and provision. We recognise the importance of:

- Students developing an understanding of the views and rights of groups to which they do not belong and that this is an important part of learning to live in society;
- Learning to understand and respect differences of gender, race, religion, age, ability and disability and social disadvantage;
- Providing, through the behaviour of the staff, towards each other and towards students, an example that will encourage students to grow up conscious of the importance of equal opportunities and respect for others;
- Respecting the cultural and ethnic diversity of students, parents and staff, welcoming the enrichment of the environment which this brings, and of fostering positive attitudes towards our multi-cultural society;
- Learning about equal opportunities so that it enhances the curriculum.



4 SEND Aims of the School

- To identify and support students with specific educational needs through a whole school approach, whilst working in partnership with parents and any other relevant outside agencies;
- To ensure that all students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum;
- To provide a differentiated curriculum appropriate to the individual's needs and abilities;
- To ensure that students with SEND have the opportunity to take a full part in all school activities;
- To ensure that parents and carers of students with SEND are kept informed of their child's progress and attainment;
- To actively reduce barriers to achievement.

We assess each student as required and make appropriate provision based upon their identified needs.

5 Special Educational Provision Means:

Provision which is additional to or different from that made generally for students of the same age. At Eltham College, this may include for example, additional learning support lessons provided by a specialist teacher, friendship groups for social and communication skills and targeted support.

6 Roles and Responsibilities

Eltham College has a Head of Learning Support in the Junior School and a Head of Learning Support in the Senior School. Each member of staff reports to the appropriate member of the school leadership team. Additionally, the Junior School has a specialist teacher who reports to the Head of Learning Support. This post supports on a 1:1 basis, teaches small groups and supports groups of students with EAL.

The Head(s) of Learning Support:

- Oversee the day to day operation of policy;
- Co-ordinate provision of students with SEND or students who are identified as needing targeted support (these students do not necessarily have specific learning difficulty but may have a need identified by the teacher);
- Keep an up to date register of students with SEND;
- Attend pastoral meetings as appropriate;
- Maintain effective records such as student profiles, appropriate targets and review of progress;
- Broaden their professional development and members of the team;
- Liaise with external agencies;
- Liaise with parents;
- Manage the work of any specialist teachers employed by the Junior School;
- Provide assessments to identify students with SEND (Year 3, Year 7, Year 12 or students who may join later);
- Give advice to colleagues and liaise between Junior and Senior school, particularly over transition;
- Keep up to date with changes in legislation and policy, effective interventions;
- Support or train new staff as required;
- Identify and maintain resources as appropriate;
- Meet regularly with SLT;
- Liaise with the SEND Governor;
- Maintain records and provide support for students who have EAL (Junior School only);



- Provide the relevant evidence for access arrangements in school and public examinations.

Staff:

- Are responsible and accountable for the progress of the students in their classes, including where students are supported by specialist staff;
- Know how to access information about students with SEND;
- Are aware that high quality, differentiated teaching is the first step in responding to students' needs;
- Know how to refer students for support;
- Liaise with the relevant Head of Learning Support in the Junior or Senior School;
- Note that that the 2014 Code of Practice makes it clear that 'all teachers are teachers of students with special educational needs';
- Receive training as appropriate from the Head of Learning Support that explains the school's systems and structures.

Role of Parents

The school works closely with parents to support their child and has much to contribute in the support of students with SEND. Where parents are concerned, they will contact the Form Tutor in the first instance.

In some circumstances, the school will recommend a referral to an external professional, such as an educational psychologist. **Any decision to involve outside agencies must involve the school.** However, it will be the responsibility of the parent to make the referral.

The school ensures that there is regular communication regarding the progress and this takes the form of parents' evenings and written reports. In the Junior School there will be an end of year meeting to review progress and set targets for the forthcoming year.

Governing Body

The Governing Body has due regard to the Code of Practice when carrying out its duties. The Heads of Learning Support will report to governors regularly to keep them updated.

7 Admissions

The school ensures that students are admitted who can access the curriculum with the appropriate level of support that is provided by the school. All students with SEND or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are welcome to apply for a place at Eltham College in line with the school admissions policy.

8 Identification, Assessment and Provision

Early identification is key. The school uses appropriate screening and assessment tools to identify students with specific needs.

Junior School

Some of the students joining Eltham College may have already had their needs assessed. These students will be placed on a register of students with learning support needs and a student profile will be formulated between the Head of Learning Support, Form Tutor and parents to provide the appropriate level of support needed for that individual. The plan will include targets and recommendations which will be decided with the parents and student.



Year 3 Screening

- Screening for specific learning difficulties e.g. dyslexia in the first term;
- Further assessment in consultation with parents;
- Collating evidence from the teacher;
- Lesson observations;
- Further detailed assessments for specific students identified through screening (e.g. Dyslexia Portfolio);
- Formal assessment by an external professional;
- Listening to parent and student concerns;
- For higher levels of needs, specialised assessments may be used from an occupational therapist, psychiatrist, paediatric specialist, visual or hearing impairment staff;
- Screening in the Junior School is the responsibility of the Junior School Head of Learning Support.

The results of these findings provide the basis for the student profile.

Senior School

- Standardised assessment tools such as MIDYIS, YELLIS, ALIS, Progress in English in Year 7, writing and spelling tests in Year 7 and Year 12;
- Screening software such as the Dyslexia Screener/Portfolio;
- Full assessments completed by an appropriately qualified specialist teacher or educational psychologist that takes account of a student's strengths, weaknesses and makes specific recommendations for support;
- Evidence based upon student progress, expectations of progress and appropriate data where available. This will include high quality and accurate formative assessment;
- Evidence obtained by teacher observation/assessment;
- Listening to parent and student concerns;
- For higher levels of needs, specialised assessments may be used from an occupational therapist, psychiatrist, paediatric specialist, visual or hearing impairment staff;
- Screening in the Senior School is the responsibility of the Senior School Head of Learning Support.

The results of these findings provide the basis for the student profile.

Identification at any other stage

- By Form Tutor or subject teacher using high quality formative assessments;
- Informal assessment by a specialist teacher in school;
- Administration of the Dyslexia Portfolio;
- Formal assessment by an external professional;
- The results of these findings provide the basis for the student profile.

Where a learning need is identified, a student profile is written and circulated to teachers and parents. This identifies strengths and learning needs and is reviewed regularly. The student is entered onto the SEND register and receives appropriate support. Where students or parents choose not to receive support, their progress will be monitored.

9 Monitoring and Progress

Adequate progress is that which:

- Narrows the attainment gap between the student and their peers;



- Equals or improves upon the student's previous rate of progress;
- Ensures full access to the curriculum;
- Shows an improvement in independence, social or personal skills;
- Shows improvements in the student's behaviour;
- Is likely to lead to further education, training or employment.

Progress in school is monitored by a range of methods:

- Observations of pupils within the classroom environment by the appropriate Head of Learning Support;
- Work scrutiny and reviewing student's work by the appropriate Head of Learning Support (working with key departments or year groups, with a specific focus for the work scrutiny);
- Informal feedback from staff;
- Monitoring of targets (either set by the subject teacher or the specialist teacher);
- Listening to the views of parents;
- Listening and consulting with the views of students when reviewing progress;
- Tracking and reviewing aptitude grades and attainment grades regularly;
- Liaising with key staff in pastoral meetings;
- Formal assessment of reading and spelling skills using standardised tests where appropriate.

10 Education Health Care Plan (EHC Plan)

If a student continues to have significant difficulties and the School has taken relevant and purposeful action to meet the needs of the young person, parents or the school can request an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) needs assessment with the Local Authority. Parents are fully supported at every stage of this process.

11 Provision

The main methods of provision made by the School are:

- Full time education in classes with additional help and support by the subject teacher through differentiation;
- Periods of withdrawal to work with a specialist teacher for literacy, study skills, numeracy skill or social and communication skills;
- A graduated approach identified in appendix 1. This sets out what is considered to be available to all, what is considered to be targeted support and what is specialist support;
- The school's SEND support is underpinned by the four-part cycle: assess, plan, do and review.

12 Charging

Senior School

For students with a specific learning difficulty, there is no charge for learning support lessons. Students who do not have a specific learning difficulty and who choose learning support lessons will be charged termly. Where a student pays full fees and a parent requests a full diagnostic report, parents will be liable for the full cost of the diagnostic report. Where a student is provided with a bursary, charges for a full diagnostic report will be pro-rated.



Junior School

Students who need booster support may have one term of learning support with no charge. After this period, a termly charge will be due, if they continue to receive support without a diagnosis. Half a term's notice will be required if this support is withdrawn.

Any pupil with a specific learning difficulty diagnosed, where support is recommended and agreed by parents and the Head of Learning Support, will not be charged under current legal legislation.

13 Students with English as an Additional Language (EAL)

We recognise that EAL is not a specific learning need. Responsibility for identification and provision of EAL lies within the English department, however it is recognised that the Learning Support department will work alongside the English department to offer support and guidance and may contribute towards the identification of pupils with EAL.

On admission, parents are asked whether their children predominantly speak another language at home and the first language they acquired. A list of students is kept whose home language is not English and the language is recorded.

Senior School

The screening process for Year 7 provides an indicator of possible difficulties (see also English Department Handbook). In most cases, intervention by the English teacher will be sufficient. New Sixth Form students are also screened upon entry and if necessary, a student may seek some additional teaching. This tuition is not provided by the school.

Junior School

Students identified with EAL through the Year 3 screening process or through identification at other stages, are supported in small groups to assist their language acquisition skills. This is provided by the school's specialist teacher.

14 Learning Support Homework

There is no set homework allocation for this subject. However, on occasion, students may be required to complete tasks set by the Learning Support Teacher.

15 Record Keeping

It is the responsibility of the Head of Learning Support to keep up to date records of students. These are in the form of:

- Individual student profiles;
- Individual target and review records;
- Programmes of study as appropriate to the needs of the student;
- SEND register;
- Student profiles entered onto SIMS (Senior School only);
- Teaching notes, target and review records;
- Written reports to parents as per the school reporting schedule.



16 Working in Partnership with Parents

The school has regular meetings to share the progress of special needs students with their parents. The process of decision-making is shared by providing clear information relating to the education of students with special educational needs. Any decision to involve outside intervention is made together with the parents and it will be their responsibility to seek a referral.

In the Junior School there is a communication via email in the autumn term and a report comment included in the spring and summer report. Parents meet with the Head of Learning Support and Learning Support tutor in the summer term of each year, to review progress and set targets for the forthcoming year and the Head of Learning Support attends 'Meet the Tutor' evenings.

In the Senior School, there is a reporting schedule for achievement and application grades and comments written in a full report. The Head of Learning support attends parents' evenings and 'meet the form tutor' events to support staff and meet parents. There is a 'drop in' session for the parents of Year 6 students who are due to move to the Senior School where both Heads of Learning Support will be present.

17 Useful Support Organisations

Dyslexia Association of Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham (www.dyslexiawise.co.uk)

British Dyslexia Association (www.bdadyslexia.org.uk)

Dyslexia Action (www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk)

Dyspraxia Foundation (www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk)

Burgess Autistic Trust (Bromley) (www.burgessautistictrust.org.uk)

Lewisham Autism Support (lewishamproject@nas.org.uk)

General parent support provided by Bromley Local Authority (www.bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk)

18 Student Participation

The Code of Practice recognises that schools should show sensitivity, honesty and mutual respect when encouraging students to share their concerns. The ways in which students are encouraged to do this should reflect the student's evolving maturity. Students are actively encouraged to be independent learners and to reflect on how they manage their learning in the classroom.

19 Health and Safety

The Learning Support staff are under a legal obligation to co-operate fully in health and safety matters by ensuring that all areas are safe for themselves and others in line with the school's Health and Safety Policy. They are also required to act in a safe way themselves, following the school's recommended procedures and reporting any hazardous conditions or concerns to the relevant line manager or Head of Learning Support for onward communication to the Facilities Team.

Appendix 1 – Graduated Response at Eltham College

Universal – academic (available to all)	Targeted – academic (available to some)	Specialist
Differentiation within the lesson	Setting for specific groups (Junior School)	Specialist professionals: occupational therapist, paediatrician etc.
Differentiated homework tasks	Strategies for individuals e.g. time out cards	Counselling
Visual aids (e.g. visual timetables, reading rulers, reminders)	Targeted support for specific groups for literacy/numeracy (Junior School)	Play counsellors (Junior School)
Use of writing frames, scaffolding tasks	Student passports/student profiles	
Clear and explicit modelling of skills by teacher	Access arrangements in tests and exams	
Access to homework/subject clubs (Senior School only)	1:1 withdrawal for specialist teaching	
Revision classes	Flexible timetabling/flexible curriculum (Senior School)	
Study skills classes with Elevate Education (Senior School only)	Use of ICT/laptop for classwork and homework	
Structured routines, clear expectations and boundaries, clear system of sanctions and rewards	Targeted study skills support for specific students	
Subject buddy (Maths – Senior school)		
PSHE/Wellbeing programme (e.g. understanding discrimination and stereotypes, coping with emotions, resilience etc.)		
Year 7 – Well Being Group		



Universal – pastoral (available to all)	Targeted – pastoral (available to some)	
<p>Peer mentoring support in Junior School and for Year 7 students in Senior School</p> <p>Support from Form Tutor (e.g. organisational skills)</p> <p>Support from Section Head (Senior School)</p> <p>Support from school nursing staff</p> <p>Encouragement towards extra-curricular activities</p>	<p>Time out for medical conditions</p> <p>Friendship group support</p>	