

St Bede's Inter-Church School

SEND Information Report 2022-23



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Updated September 2022

Together with our SEND policy, this SEND information report aims to:

- Set out how our school will support and make provision for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for students with SEND

What is our approach to teaching young people with learning difficulties and SEND?

At St Bede's Inter-Church School, it is our vocation to lead our students towards being caring, curious, confident, resourceful and reflective people. As a Church school, we are an image of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27), and our students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are an essential and valued part of that body and enrich our school culture as much as we strive to enrich their knowledge and understanding.

We are a mainstream school with a deliberate focus on inclusive education. Our supported learning department's aim, as far as possible, is to include all students in the mainstream classroom.

From when a student is offered a place at St Bede's we take a long-term view of how they will develop. This includes not only their academic qualification, but a view of their social and personal development that honours the unique and complex nature of every individual.

What kinds of learning needs do we support?

Our school currently provides additional and/or different provision for a range of needs, including:

- Communication and interaction, e.g., autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)
- Cognition and learning, e.g., dyslexia, dyspraxia
- Social, emotional and mental health, e.g., attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and attachment
- Sensory and/or physical needs, e.g., vision impairments and hearing impairments.

In practice, students with SEND often have needs that cut across more than one of these areas and their needs may change over time.

How do we identify young people with SEND and assess their needs?

We identify students with SEND in a number of ways:

- The transfer information we receive from previous schools
- The baseline testing we conduct at the start of Year 7 and Year 10, including cognitive assessment tests and in Y7 a reading assessment. These tests help to identify outliers who might have a learning difficulty or require catch-up due to lost learning through absence in primary school or currently find aspects of learning difficult due to English not being their first language. It is after these tests that the supported learning department can make recommendations as to further adaptations and support.
- Ongoing monitoring of academic progress, including where students are making less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances
- Ongoing monitoring of social development
- Consultation between the SEND department, teachers and parents/carers
- The advice of external professionals
- St Bede's also considers evidence that a student may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 and, if so, what reasonable adjustments may need to be made for them.

Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a student is recorded as having SEN (Special Educational Needs).

Due to our whole school focus on high quality adaptive teaching, a diagnosis of a learning difficulty also will not necessarily call for special educational provision, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to students of the same age.

When deciding whether special educational provision is required, we will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the student and their parent/carers. We will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether we can provide it by adapting our core offer, or whether something different or additional is needed.

We will have an early discussion with the student and their parents/carers when identifying whether they need special educational provision. These conversations will make sure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the student's areas of strength and difficulty
- We take into account the parents'/carers' concerns
- Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child
- Everyone is clear on what the next steps are.

We maintain a SEND register which includes students with EHCPs and on SEND support. We also have a list of students who have diagnosed or suspected learning difficulties without requiring support in addition to high quality adaptive teaching, and teachers monitor the progress of these students closely.

Some students with learning difficulties require access arrangements for assessments without requiring special educational provision in addition to high quality adaptive teaching day-to-day. We commission and work with a qualified access arrangement assessor to identify students who are entitled to support in exams to ensure that students have equal access to their examinations. We cannot accept privately commissioned reports as evidence to support our application for access arrangements and we do not consult assessors other than our own when preparing reports (see Joint Council for Qualifications, Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 7.3.6). The responsibility to determine and request appropriate and practicable access arrangements and reasonable adjustments lies with the SENDCo.

For specific information about examinations, please email our Exams Officer:

exams@Stbedes.cambs.sch.uk

If you think that your child has special educational needs that have not yet been assessed or fully understood, please email our SENDCo, Mrs Imogen Clarke-Halewood:

SEND@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk

How do we assess and review students' progress towards outcomes?

We follow the graduated approach and the four-part cycle of assess, plan, do, review.

Subject teachers and tutors work with the SENDCo, parents/carers and student to assess and review progress towards outcomes on their plan. This will draw on:

- The teacher's assessment and experience of the student
- The individual's development in comparison to their peers and national data
- The views and experience of the parents/carers
- The student's own views
- Advice from external support services, if relevant.

The plan resulting from discussions with the student and their parents/carers is added to the student's record, shared with their teachers and sent to their parents/carers. We will formally notify parents when it is decided that a student will receive SEN support. Through their plan, all teachers and support staff who work with the student will be made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided, and any specific teaching strategies or approaches that are required. We regularly review the effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the student's progress.

What is our approach to teaching students with learning difficulties and SEND?

- High quality teaching, adapted for individual students, is our first step in responding to students who have or may have SEND. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of high-quality teaching. As a school we regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all students, including those at risk of underachievement and those with SEND.
- As standard, teachers and teaching assistants follow checklists for adapting teaching to support autistic students; students with dyslexia; students with dyspraxia; students with ADHD students with attachment disorder students with speech, language and communication needs students with vision impairments and/or hearing impairments.
- We use Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for staff to provide training in any areas identified as needing improvement / updating.
- Each student that has a SEND support plan or EHCP is supported to develop their own regularly updated one-page profile to help all staff who work with them adapt to the ways the student finds most helpful, and to ensure that the students' voice and perspectives are heard and listened to throughout.

How does our learning environment support students with SEND?

- Guidance is given to teachers on how to make their classroom environment accessible for students with needs including sensory sensitivities.
- Specific, individual equipment and adaptations necessary for learning are highlighted on student's plans and/or one-page profiles and steps are taken to incorporate these into school practice, in consultation with parents/carers and relevant professionals.
- Most areas of the site are accessible by lift or ramp. The exception is the upper floor of the St Etheldreda building and where students are unable to access this floor, arrangements are made for their class to be moved to an accessible room.
- St Bede's has PE changing and toilet facilities adapted for those with some physical disabilities. Arrangements to adapt to students needs when changing for PE can be made.

Further details can be found in our accessibility policy: <https://www.st-bedes.org.uk/Policies/>

What additional support for learning is available?

Homework club

Students with SEND are automatically eligible to attend homework club after school where they can receive adult support while continuing to build independence.

Out of class passes

Some students feel more comfortable in the classroom when they know that there is an option to leave the lesson if they need to. Sometimes this is for medical reasons, for example if they need to have access to a toilet, and sometimes it is to support their mental health or emotional wellbeing. The purposes of these passes are to support students to stay in the room because they are less worried. Out of class passes are issued by the SENDCo and reviewed regularly. Where out of class passes are not effective, they are withdrawn.

Auxiliary aids

We can often loan school laptops to students who need them.

Where necessary, we apply for assessments to be made by the local authority to fund auxiliary aids (e.g., microphones linked to hearing aids, speech dictation or computer reader software).

St Hilda's

Our school has a classroom, St Hilda's, where many of the additional interventions for students with SEND take place. This is not a 'unit' or enhanced resource base.

- Though the lessons that are taught there sometimes look different to conventional lessons, its role is to support students to access their mainstream lessons.
- There is one teacher based in St Hilda's, supported by experienced teaching assistants with additional qualifications.
- St Hilda's is also a place where students with additional needs know they can come during break times or before school when they need someone to give them reassurance.
- In the first few weeks, students with SEND might also come to St Hilda's if they get lost.

The precise interventions we offer may change, for example depending on student need, new research and monitored in-school impact. They currently include:

- Numeracy interventions such as Numicon Explorer, Plus 1 and Power of 2
- Reading interventions such as Expanded Rehearsal Technique (ERT), Toe by Toe and Reading Between the Lines
- Spelling interventions such as cued spelling and Word Shark
- Microsoft 365 accessibility tools training

- Lego Therapy
- Social skills group
- Speech and language activities
- DLD and Me Advocacy Project
- Comic strip conversations
- Zones of Regulation
- Handwriting interventions
- Pre-learning and over-learning for some subjects such as Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) where required.

We review interventions on a cycle of up to 10 weeks, so that when outcomes are met the intervention is stopped and when they are not, the provision is changed or adapted as necessary.

Our SEND Teacher is Ms Jenny Steward: SEND@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk

Curriculum adaptations

Conversations with parents/carers about whether there are appropriate adaptations to a student's curriculum often start after the baseline assessments at the start of Year 7.

We believe that all students should be offered a broad and balanced curriculum, including arts subjects, technologies, humanities and languages. Every student at St Bede's has the opportunity to study two languages in addition to English: in Year 7 students begin studying French, in Year 8 they begin German, and in Year 9 they can choose to begin Latin. Language teachers are experienced and trained in adapting teaching and learning to meet the needs of students with a range of needs.

On occasion it is better on balance for some students with SEND to opt to use some of their curriculum time to follow an intervention specific to their current needs, e.g., reading comprehension, and to therefore study fewer subjects than their peers. In line with our commitment to inclusive education this is kept to a minimum and is usually time limited. For example, students who do not study French in Year 7 often go on to successfully study and enjoy French and/or German in Year 8, or students may have their intervention during drama, for example, but for a period of 6-10 weeks before returning to the full curriculum. Any such decision is made by the SENDCo in consultation with parents/carers and the student. In consultation with the SENDCo and Head of Languages, students who are withdrawn from French in Year 7 but are still significantly behind their chronological reading age at the end of the year may choose to be withdrawn from German in Year 8 to continue to accelerate their progress in literacy. It may also be appropriate for these students to not take a language for GCSE and instead have additional English and/or maths lessons timetabled.

PE lessons may be adapted according to students' needs. It is not possible to withdraw a student from PE entirely.

Teaching Assistants (TAs)

We have 19 TAs who support students to access the mainstream classroom. They are contracted to work from 9am to 3.30pm with breaks. They have the option to take overtime where this is funded by the local authority.

TAs are allocated according to the higher needs funding we receive for each student from the local authority and taking account of other provisions that funding covers. Priority is given as follows: English, maths and science; theology, history and geography; languages; arts, computing and technologies; PE.

National education research indicates that 'deployment of teaching assistants in everyday classroom environments has not been shown to have a positive impact on learner outcomes' and that students, 'particularly those who are low attaining or identified as having special educational needs, can perform worse in classes with teaching assistants (EEF). For this reason, we follow best practice guidance (Education Endowment Foundation (2018), Making Best Use of Teaching Assistants, available online) so that:

- TAs are fully prepared for their role in the classroom through participation in training, liaising with teachers and access to curriculum materials. As well as safeguarding training and access to all whole school training sessions, some TAs undertake further qualifications, for example in supporting students with specific learning difficulties, vision impairment, autism or mental health needs. Some TAs attend training in delivering speech and language therapy interventions and occupational therapy interventions. This year TAs have had a weekly professional development session on Wednesday mornings in place of the interventions that run in form time on the other days of the week. One TA is currently completing a teaching internship through Cambridgeshire Local Authority, leading to qualified teacher status.
- TAs are not used as an informal teaching resource for low attaining students. Our aim is for students to not be separated from the classroom, specialist teachers and their peers. Students with SEND are as likely to be supported by their classroom teacher even in lessons where a TA is supporting the lesson.
- TAs are used to add value to what teachers do, not replace them. In general, TAs are not assigned to specific students for long periods. If present, TAs may work with a number of students in the class, offering the least amount of help first and allowing sufficient wait time, so students can respond to a question or attempt the stage of a task independently. As well as supporting students academically, this can help students develop independence and social skills.

TAs may help students to:

- organise themselves
- feel more confident in the classroom
- focus on tasks
- prioritise important information
- practice vocabulary
- recall prior learning

TAs may work with teachers to:

- break down or adapt instructions
- provide additional scaffolding, such as sentence starters
- prompt for the use of key words to use in writing
- provide a model
- verbally extend and clarify students' understanding.

How do we work with parents and carers of young people with SEND?

We understand that parents/carers can be particularly anxious when their child has a special educational needs. We ask that parents/carers remember that when they are anxious, they and the school are on the same side in wanting the best that can be provided. We share parents/carers' concern that their children, our students, should do as well as they can. Like the parents and carers in our community, we want our students to be happy at school and believe they have as much right to enjoy their education as anyone else.

Likewise, teachers should enjoy their vocation and we ask parents/carers to be courteous in their dealings with us. The school expects parents and carers to work collaboratively with us, particularly in finding solutions where disagreements arise. We will not get it right 100% of the time and there are limitations to our resources. We ask that parents/carers to be aware of the other students needs when adjusting their expectations as to what can be provided in a secondary context.

In applying for St Bede's, we ask that students and parents/carers 'buy into' the approach we take to teaching young people with SEND. This might mean that St Bede's is not the right school for every family, even though the provisions we have available mean that we can support a very wide range of needs. While the underlying principles are non-negotiable, how those principles are put into practice should be a topic of ongoing discussion. Sometimes students are more comfortable talking to parents/carers about how they feel and what they need, and so feedback from those conversations can help us understand a student's needs better and adapt our provision to suit them.

Parents/carers are expected to attend an annual parent consultation evening to meet with as many of their child's subject teachers as possible. Students receiving interventions led by our SEND Teacher will be offered an appointment to talk about this along with meetings with subject teachers. Further consultations with parents/carers of students with SEND support plans and EHCPs take place once with the SENDCo in each of the other two terms.

Students with EHCPs have an annual review which parents/carers are expected to attend. This is where a student's outcomes and provisions are formally reviewed. However, young people grow up quickly, and parents/carers are consulted at points throughout the year on how the provision agreed at the annual review is working in practice.

Both SEND Support Plans and EHCPs follow an 'assess, plan, do, review' model. As students with SEND progress towards their outcomes, provisions may need to be altered to suit their developing needs and progress towards outcomes and this can be discussed during those meetings.

We have a parent consultation forum which usually meets termly to reflect on SEND at St Bede's. This forum does not discuss individual students, but instead considers the direction and work of the SEND Team in supporting teachers to meet the needs of students with SEND. To propose topics for the agenda, please contact our SENDCo at SEND@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk.

Parents/carers of young people with SEN are welcome to email teachers and Heads of Faculty directly and it is helpful if they copy in SEND@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk into all their correspondence so that we can have a joined-up approach to supporting your children.

An appointment with the SENDCo can be arranged by email: SEND@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk. These are online by default, but we are also happy to arrange meetings in person in school if preferred.

How do we support students moving between phases and preparing for adulthood?

Year 6 to Year 7

- Year 6 students with EHCPs are invited to spend an additional day at St Bede's in the summer term which can help them familiarise themselves with their new environment, meet some of the adults at St Bede's and get to know some of the other students.
- Additional transition visits can be arranged for students with EHCPs and SEND Support plans during which they meet the key staff in their pastoral and academic support.
- Our SENDCo liaises with the SEND Leads of our feeder schools and transition paperwork is shared.
- Our SENDCo is available to meet individually with new parents/carers with particular concerns in the last half term of the academic year. Please contact them by email (SEND@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk) for an appointment.

Choosing GCSE subjects

- Students with SEND are supported in choosing their GCSE options by the SENDCo and where appropriate the Pupil Premium Coordinator.

Year 11 to post-16

- All students with SEND are included in the school's careers education and guidance programme.
- Young people with SEND often benefit from additional support and guidance in choosing the right post-16 provision for them. People who help with this include the SENDCo, our SEND Teacher, our Careers Advisor and our Key Stage Transitions Manager Louise Patten (LPatten@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk). We also have links with Cambridgeshire County Council who are able to provide enhanced transition support in some cases.
- When students move on to post-16 education, we follow procedure in sharing relevant information with the new provider, including access arrangements, to help make the transition as smooth as possible.
- Additional support is available to Year 11 students with SEND in preparing their applications for post-16 provision.

Preparing for adulthood

- While at St Bede's, we work with students and their parents/carers to try to ensure the outcomes in students' plans reflect the need to ensure young people are preparing for adulthood. We try to ensure that outcomes reflect their ambitions, which could include higher education, employment, independent living and participation in society.
- From Year 7 onwards, we are preparing for the moment where we have to say goodbye to our students at the end of their Year 11. This is a moment of pride for us as the opportunities afforded by their hard work open up in further and higher education, training and employment and their personal development allows them to go on to fulfilling independent life. This long-term vision can be challenging for parents, carers, students and teachers at the early stages of secondary school life, as expectations are raised and it can seem daunting to think about something that appears to be a long way in the future.

Key Stage Transitions Manager: Ms Louise Patten (LPatten@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk)

How do we enable students with SEND engage in activities available to those in the school who do not have SEND?

We aim to ensure there are no barriers to students with SEND enjoying the same activities as other students in our school. No student is excluded from taking part in these activities because of their SEN or disability.

- Our extra-curricular activities and school visits are available to all our students, including our after-school clubs.
- All students are encouraged to go on our residential trips at Key Stage 3, for example the Bede Trail
- All students are encouraged to take part in sports day, school plays and any special workshops relevant to the courses they study.
- Students with SEND are encouraged to take on leadership roles within our school, for example as chaplaincy reps, senate reps and senior students.
- A number of students of take part in the Aspire Sports League each year and have a track record of success.

How do we support the development of students' emotional and social development?

- Students with SEND are encouraged to be part of the school senate.
- Students with SEND are also encouraged to be part of clubs such as chess club and crochet club to promote teamwork/building friendships.
- Students with SEND are encouraged to go on school trips, and the SENDCo and trip leaders liaise with students and parents/carers ahead of trips to support this.
- St Bede's has a strong pastoral system. Each student has a Head of Year and form tutor. The school chaplain is experienced in supporting young people with SEND. Our SENDCo works very closely with the Pupil Premium Coordinator, Designated Teacher for Looked after and Post Looked After Children and Heads of Year. Often students' needs come under more than one category, for example as well as having SEND they may be a young carer, so we believe that it is in the best interest of each student to work in a joined-up way. Students with SEND are also encouraged to approach the team in St Hilda's or the SENDCo for further advice and support.
- Our school uses student premium funding to allow for additional in-school counselling sessions from Centre 33's Talk Support programme.
- Students have an annual academic review – for students with SEND this is usually with the SENDCo or the Pupil Premium Coordinator.
- Part of teaching students to be as independent as they can be is teaching them to self-advocate so we encourage and recognise their achievements. Students with SEND support plans and EHCPs are consulted as part of reviewing their provision each year. They are encouraged to attend at least part of the review with the SENDCo, their parents/carers and the professionals who support them.
- Students are expected to attend parent/carers consultation evenings so that they can contribute to the discussion.
- Our SENDCo is available to liaise with the relevant Head of Year when our students with SEND fall short of the school's expectations. Occasionally it is appropriate to adjust those expectations so that a particular student can approach the shared standards at a pace they can manage. Normal school sanctions might be overwhelming for some students with SEND, so the SENDCo may arrange for detentions to be served with the SEND department instead.
- We have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying, as outlined in our bullying policy.

Further details can be found in our anti-bullying policy: <https://www.st-bedes.org.uk/Policies/>

What training have staff received?

Our SENDCo, Imogen Clarke-Halewood, is a qualified teacher. Imogen has taught at St Bedes for 4 years, and has extensive pastoral experience, having previously been Head of Year 11. Alongside her teaching commitments, Imogen is allocated 18 hours a week to manage SEND provision. Imogen will also be undertaking the NASENCo qualification this academic year.

Along with the rest of the Pastoral and Heads of Faculty Teams, she is supported by our SEND Teacher who holds the National Award in Special Educational Needs Coordination. She has completed courses on interventions such as Lego Therapy, Expanded Rehearsal Technique and Clicker software. We have a team of 17 teaching assistants, including 2 who are trained to a higher level.

Recently, teaching staff have been trained in a range of themes pertinent to SEND, including:

- Speech Language training in September 2021 with Cambridgeshire County Council
- Supporting students with hearing impairments
- Supporting students with vision impairments
- Attachment disorder (annually in September with an extended training in spring 2022)
- Mental health
- Autism Education Trust Good Autism Practice training is planned for autumn 2022
- Courses available on demand from the National College.

How do we evaluate the effectiveness of the provision made for students with SEND?

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for students with SEND by:

- Reviewing students' individual progress towards their outcomes each term at each data collection point
- Reviewing the impact of interventions after 6-10 weeks, for example by reassessing reading age
- Using student voice
- Feedback from the teacher where interventions are linked to specific subject areas
- Through regular reviews for students on SEND support or EHCPs, which include feedback from parents/carers.

How are we supporting care experienced children and young people with SEND?

Our community includes students who are or have been in local authority care (Looked After Children and Post-Looked After Children). Some of these students also have SEND.

The SENDCo and all the SEND Team work very closely with the Designated Teacher for Looked After and Post-Looked After Children, Mr Stephen Allen, and the Pupil Premium Coordinator, Anna Grady to ensure that outcomes and provisions are joined-up to best meet the needs of the individual student.

Inclusion Manager and Designated Teacher for Looked After and Post-Looked After Children, Mr Stephen Allen: SAllen@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk

How do we work with other agencies?

We value our links with the local authority, and work closely with specialists who are assigned to our students and available for general advice, including Teachers of the Vision Impaired, teachers of the Hearing Impaired and Speech and Language Therapists. We have an allocation of time from a local authority Educational Psychologist. We work with the Virtual School for supporting Looked After Children.

We also work with Centre 33 and other specialist providers for occupational health and music/art therapists where these have been commissioned by the local authority.

We work with the Early Help Hub when applying for a Young Person's Worker, a Family Worker or working through a Team Around the Family (TAF) process.

What are the contact details of support services for parents of students with SEND?

- Please see this web page for details of Cambridgeshire's Local Offer: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer>
- Pinpoint can provide information for parents/carers of young people with SEND in Cambridgeshire. Follow this link for their website: <https://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk/>
- The SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) is available from the local authority: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer/local-offer-care-and-family-support/send-information-advice-and-support-service-sendiaass>

How can a complaint about SEND provision be made?

- Concerns about SEND provision in our school should be made to the SENDCo in the first instance: send@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk
- If you would like to raise a complaint, please contact the Head Teacher, Mr Alistair Day: ADay@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk
- Only after this should complaints be referred to the governors via the SEND link governor, Mr Jonathan Glazier: govglazier@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk
- Complaints will be referred to the school's complaints policy.
- The Chair of Governors is The Rev'd Dr Geoff Cook: govcook@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk