



## **Special Educational Needs (SEN) Policy**

Date Released: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019

## Key Principles

- Elms School is dedicated to providing a broad, relevant and balanced curriculum based on the special educational needs of individual pupils **(See Appendix 1)**
- Elms School's provision ensures maximum access and attainment, within and beyond the National Curriculum, by deploying available resources such that pupils receive the support, and have the opportunities required, to foster their personal, social, behavioural, cultural, moral and educational development
- It is the aim of Elms School to ensure that pupils realise their full potential and therefore leave the school best equipped to succeed in the next stage of their lives
- Elms School's ethos and culture effectively provides pupils with an environment that allows them to realise their academic, moral and social potential in a way that individual pupil support in the mainstream is not able to do
- It is Elms School's aim to work in partnership with pupils' parents/carers and other external agencies to provide for its pupils' special educational needs.

## The Governors

The Governing Body of Elms School is committed to the principle of ensuring that the school may continue to provide an excellent level of service to its community and shows an interest in all aspects of its work.

The governors, in co-operation with the Head Teacher, determine the school's general policy and approach to the provision for pupils with an EHCP, establish the appropriate staff and funding arrangements and maintain a monitoring oversight of the school's work.

The Governors are particularly keen to ensure that the pupils are provided with the highest standards of accommodation and resourcing that can be made available.

Paying due regard to ECM and FBV;

- To ensure the welfare- pastoral, social, behavioural, physical and educational needs of the pupils are met

- To provide continuing professional development of all staff to meet the pupils' needs
- To ensure that appropriate resources enable the school to serve the needs of its pupils, parents, staff and community effectively and provide good value for money.
- Fundamental British Values.
- To ensure that all complaints regarding the provision for pupils with special education needs, received from parents/carers/responsible adults, are investigated in line with the school's complaints policy. Dependent on the findings this may result in adaptations being actioned, where required and possible.

### **Objectives of this Policy**

This policy describes;

- The provision made by the school to meet the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs
- The means whereby these needs are identified monitored and met.

The policy also identifies;

- Other school policies and documents that detail relevant aspects of the school, its provision, organisation and development
- The procedure for considering complaints about the school's SEN provision.
- The criteria for its evaluation.

### **Meeting objectives**

Elms School undertakes a process of continuous review and improvement, and ensures that this is channelled into the achievement of its objectives by;

- The creation of development plans containing goals
- Producing an annual School Development Plan (SDP), with clear targets and clearly defined responsibilities
- Maintaining a range of policies with periodic review dates, ensuring that the school can respond effectively to changes in the needs of its pupils and staff.

## **The School in Kent**

Elms School is an essential part of the County's special needs provision, providing a service not only to the community and its pupils, but also filling a part of the County's continuum of service to children with SEN. By effectively meeting needs for a core of pupils, the school supports the County, in meeting its responsibilities to include all children.

Within the County's framework and policy, the school offers: Support to local Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators and individual pupils with SEN in mainstream settings through the STLS Outreach Team.

Further information on Kent County Councils 'SEND Local Offer' can be found on the following link: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs>

## **The provision made at Elms School**

Elms School is dedicated to the provision of a broad, balanced and relevant education for pupils whose needs are best met by;

- A structured and differentiated curriculum with carefully established and regularly reviewed teaching plans and attainable targets to provide maximum possible access to the National Curriculum
- Frequent opportunities to learn and develop basic skills across the whole curriculum
- The continuous development of independence skills
- Carefully structured and supported opportunities to develop access skills to enable integration into the group, the class, the school and the community
- The provision of EHCP clear, achievable and frequently reviewed targets which reflect the concerns and needs of the pupil, parents and other agencies
- Building of self-esteem through the recognition of pupils' achievements
- A high level of tutorial and pastoral support and guidance within a clearly defined framework of expectations, rewards and sanctions.

Elms School provides this within a caring, considerate and effective school community.

Facilities at Elms School are described in the school prospectus. They include;

- In addition to classrooms, a range of subject specialist rooms as well as soft play, therapeutic rooms and various sports facilities.
- Grounds which are maintained to provide pupil access to natural and sensory areas, both enhancing the working environment and enabling a broader curriculum to be followed.

Elms School has its own kitchen, providing a midday meal which facilitates the provision of special diets where appropriate. Elms School provides breakfast to all pupils.

### **Admission Criteria**

Admission to Elms School usually follows consideration by the County Panel. Recommendation for a school place is usually based upon recognition that the pupil will make greater progress and speedier development within the curriculum and resource structures of the school. In every case a placement at Elms School is a positive step in furthering the pupil's achievements. All pupils at Elms School have an Education Health and Care Plan that recommends placement in a special school with small teaching groups and individual learning plans.

Some pupils are transferred directly from other special schools following home moves or other special circumstances.

All admissions to the school comply with the legal requirements as outlined within the Equality Act 2010. As such Elms School does not discriminate against a pupil or prospective pupil by treating them less favourably because of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation or gender reassignment.

Furthermore, Elms School will fulfil its legal duty to make 'reasonable adjustment, as outlined within the Equality Act 2010. This means that adjustments which are necessary and reasonable, for the benefit of current or prospective pupil(s), will be made once identified. However, the aforementioned legislation explicitly states that schools are not obliged to anticipate and make adjustments for every imaginable disability and need

only consider general reasonable adjustments. Additionally, it is legally recognised that there will be times when adjustments cannot be made because to do so would have a detrimental effect on other pupils and would therefore not be reasonable.

## **Staffing**

Staff across the school are dedicated to raising pupils' attainments.

Teaching staff all carry a subject expertise, thereby acting as resource points for curriculum areas. Individual teachers have attended a wide range of post graduate courses and all teachers or those in teacher training, HLTAs and TAs follow our entitlement training courses.

## **Assessment**

The Code of Practice emphasises the need to identify pupils at the earliest possible time. To arrive at this stage pupils will have seen a variety of professionals who have investigated the root of the child's difficulties in learning.

The Local Authority will have deemed that a child may be suitable through a clear assessment and referral process which results in papers being submitted to the school as part of the consultation process.

Before a pupil comes to Elms School, they and their carer will be invited for a meeting with the Headteacher and Head of Welfare to assess their needs.

During the first six – twelve weeks of a pupil's time at Elms School:

- Further information/ assessment/ advice may be sought from agencies previously involved or indicated.
- Internal assessment of basic skills and attainment are made using the Pupil Asset programme.
- Staff assessments and observations are made.

A profile of need is established, which indicates the range identified for the pupil. This includes:

- Where possible, a pupil's view of their needs.
- The parent/carer's view of their child's needs.
- A summary of outside agency involvement.
- The school's view of the pupil's needs.

This is updated at a review procedure such as the annual review, individual education plans, outside agency reports and involvement.

Pupils' behaviours are logged via SIMS, with detailed accounts by the class teacher or TA. Whenever possible the behaviour observations include antecedents and consequences. The logs are reviewed weekly, according to the needs of the pupil by the Pupil Support Team at their weekly meeting.

Frequency, intensity and persistence may all trigger interventions, which include:

- Contact with parents.
- Individually negotiated behaviour management plans: pupils, parents and outside agencies may all be included.
- Additional curriculum interventions • Behaviour support Plans
- Pastoral support plans.
- Alternative curriculum
- Part time Curriculum
- The involvement of outside agencies (child guidance, SPS, CAMHS, Health Authority) to establish causes and/or recommend responses.

### **The Curriculum:**

It is the entitlement of all pupils, regardless of disabilities, gender or race, to have access to the national curriculum, its subjects, themes, dimensions and skills.

All pupils have access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, comprising a fully differentiated National Curriculum, pupils work at the level appropriate to their attainments and achievements, plus a wider curriculum in line with individual needs. Some pupils may also be identified to receive additional 1:1 or small group interventions, dependent on their current individual needs.

This wider curriculum provides additional learning experiences, which add breadth to the curriculum with particular emphasis on life skills and social/emotional development. This flexible approach to curriculum planning alters its balance depending on the changing needs of the child at different times and allows a greater emphasis on:

- Therapeutic and other specialised support
- Inclusion activities
- Vocational and work related activities.

Pupils are supported by a highly structured pastoral system which enables them to develop socially and emotionally as they progress through school. Elms School considers the social and emotional provisions offered to be an essential part in preparing pupils to learn effectively, as well as key elements necessary for all pupil to lead successful and fulfilling adult lives. As a result, the social and emotional provisions offered are regularly reviewed and assessed, often on an individualised basis by staff across the school.

### **Inclusion**

All pupils are included in school life and this is recorded annually at their Annual Education Health Care Plan Reviews.

### **Monitoring Pupil Progress**

Elms School incorporates review as an essential theme of all its activity.

- Curriculum Programmes of Study and Schemes of Work are reviewed regularly.
- Pastoral records are reviewed regularly and patterns of behaviour identified which may trigger a range of interventions, including behaviour logging, involvement of parents, referral to outside agencies, behavioural plans with carefully negotiated rewards and sanctions
- Pupils are actively involved, wherever possible in lessons, in reviewing their progress
- Annual reviews and transition planning meetings involving parents, pupils and outside agencies where appropriate
- Transitions will be supported through each phase of the school and will be adapted to meet the evolving needs of all pupils.



Teachers/Form Tutors and TAs may continue to maintain responsibility for their class into the next phase.

- Pupils in KS4 will be supported through career guidance to identify next steps in their education e.g. college or apprenticeships, and will be supported to develop their skills for independent living and/or adult life.
- Targets are shared with parents and pupils at parents' evenings as well as Annual reviews.

The results of these reviews are available to all staff.

Strategic review takes place through the regular review of the school improvement and budget maintenance plans.

### **Staffing Policies and Partnership**

Working with other agencies;

- Elms School maintains good working relationships with outside agencies, and incorporates their work in the actions and objectives defined in each pupil's EHCP.
- Representatives of the school attend multi-agency meetings at every practical opportunity, sending apologies and requesting minutes if representation is not possible.

### **Staffing and Staff Development**

Elms School recognises that;

- Special education experience is of value, but mainstream school experience is also important for staff supporting pupils in these provisions
- The role of Teaching Assistants is maximised to allow increased intervention against specific targets.
- It is necessary to continue investing in staff development in different areas of teaching and learning, in order to promote both everyday teaching skills and specialist knowledge. Staff are specially trained in a variety of areas, including: behaviour management, therapeutic approaches, specific SEN conditions and mentoring/coaching.

School management is made up of senior and middle management teams, who in turn support the management roles of all staff.

### **Professional Development**

Elms School's staff development ensures that staff are supported in the development of skills, understanding and expertise, such that they may both better provide for the needs of pupils, and enhance their personal professional development. Performance management and the SIP inform the allocation of staff training resources in response to need.

All staff have a right to in service training. This is supported within the context of the SIP and the need for personal/ professional development.

Personal and professional development is available through a referral system, whereby staff may make application for training. Courses/ training which furthers the expertise of staff as applied to pupils with SEN are favoured in this case.

Whole school issues are addressed through staff twilight training sessions.

## **Appendix 1: Adherence to Legal Requirements**

Elms School is committed to ensuring that its admission procedures and subsequent provision for pupils with SEN meet the specifications and requirements of statutory legislation. Such legislation includes, but is not limited to:

- Equality Act 2010 – Protected Characteristics and Reasonable Adjustments
  - (i) increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school's curriculum
  - (ii) improving the physical environment of the school for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities and services provided or offered by the school
  
- Children and Families Act 2014 (In particular Section 69) –
  - (i) the arrangements for the admission of disabled persons as pupils at the school
  - (ii) the steps taken to prevent disabled pupils from being treated less favourably than other pupils
  - (iii) the facilities provided to assist access to the school by disabled pupils
  
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 (Regulation 51) – The School's provision and approaches towards support pupils with SEN, including:
  - (i) The assessment of and for specific provisions
  - (ii) Adaptation and support required for pupils to successfully engage in the curriculum and learning environment.
  - (ii) Identifying the support that is available for improving the emotional, mental and social development of pupils with SEN.
  - (iii) Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with SEN.
  - (iiii) The arrangements for consulting parents of children with SEN about, and involving such parents in, the education of their child.
  - (iv) How the governing body involves other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with SEN and in supporting the families of such pupils.

**UPDATE SCHEDULE**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>	<b>Reason for Update</b>	<b>Next review date</b>	<b>Governor agreement</b>
1	Nov 16	Review & transfer	Nov 18	23.01.17
2	28/06/2019	Review & Update	June 2020	