



DOVER COLLEGE GENERAL ACADEMIC POLICY
ANNEX B

Reviewed by: Director of Studies/Head of Learning Support
Reviewed: January 2020
Next Review Date: January 2021

Dover College Learning Support and Disability Policy

Policy Statement

We believe that all children should be equally valued in school and prejudice and discrimination should be eliminated. We strive to develop an environment where all children can flourish and feel safe, which is supportive of all learners and their emotional wellbeing.

Dover College adopts a 'whole school approach' to special educational needs. The school is committed to -

- providing all pupils with the opportunity to achieve their potential both academically and in terms of personal development through a broad and balanced academic and social curriculum, which is accessible to them, and to be fully included in all aspects of school life
- ensuring that pupils with special educational needs can fulfil their potential and achieve optimal educational outcomes

We believe all children should be responsibly included in the social and curricular life of the school in order to gain the highest levels of achievement and enjoyment. We see our school as a community where we involve pupils themselves, parents and others in developing a partnership of support.

Dover College will use its best endeavours to meet obligations placed upon mainstream schools under the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (DfE, 2015) and offer a graduated response to special educational needs.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies –

- Admissions Policy
- Accessibility Policy
- Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

Definition of Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (DfE, 2015) states that –

- a child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age,

or

- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions

A child under compulsory school age has special educational needs if he or she is likely to fall within the definition above when they reach compulsory school age or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them (Section 20 Children and Families Act 2014).

Definition of Disability

Many children and young people who have special educational needs may have a disability as defined in the Equality Act (2010) that is

‘...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.’

‘Long-term’ is defined as ‘a year or more’ and ‘substantial’ is defined as ‘more than minor or trivial’.

This definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and cancer. Children and young people with such conditions do not necessarily have special educational needs, but there is a significant overlap between disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs. Where a disabled child or young person requires special educational provision they will also be covered by the special educational needs definition.

Definition of Special Educational Provision

For children aged two or more, special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools, maintained nursery schools,



mainstream post-16 institutions or by relevant early years providers. For a child under two years of age, special educational provision means educational provision of any kind.

Aims

The purpose of education is the same for all children, but the help individual children will need will be different. Dover College accepts and values each other and their differences, and will use its best endeavours to ensure that the school is accessible and that no pupil will be discriminated against.

We aim for -

- all pupils to have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, tailoring the academic programme as individually as possible
- all pupils to identify and address barriers to learning in order to support progression and good mental health and wellbeing
- all pupils with SEND to be able to access the curriculum by providing differentiated teaching and learning opportunities, extra support or additional resources and make reasonable adjustments where appropriate
- safeguarding procedures to be in place to ensure that all pupils will be protected from harm and neglect

Objectives

- to identify from the earliest possible stage, assess and plan provision to meet individual learning needs and well-being of pupils experiencing difficulties in their learning
- to monitor, record and report on progress of pupils with difficulties in their learning
- to coordinate the efficient use of resources and ensure all who are involved with pupils with difficulties learning, receive training in procedures for identifying their needs, supporting and teaching them
- to encourage an effective parent partnership in developing and implementing a joint learning approach at home and at school
- to involve pupils and parents/carers in the identification and review of targets, actions and outcomes for individual pupils experiencing difficulties in learning

- to help every pupils realise his or her potential and optimise their self-esteem by promoting access to a balanced, broad and relevant curriculum which is differentiated to meet their individual needs
- to encourage and support pupils to participate in all decision-making processes that occur in their education
- to support all staff in identifying pupils with special educational needs and to take responsibility for recognising and addressing their barriers to learning
- to make relevant information available to staff in support of their curriculum planning regarding pupils' learning difficulties and disabilities
- to provide a regular INSET programme to Learning Support staff and mainstream teaching staff
- to involve parents/carers of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disability in the development of policy and provision
- to work in close partnership, where appropriate, with outside agencies to support the needs and provision for pupils who have special educational needs and/or disability
- to inform parents/carers of pupils with who have special educational needs and/or disability about the school's and local authorities 'Local Offers'
- to develop strong links with the school's governing body and so involve them in the development and monitoring of the special needs provision in the school
- to develop and sustain strong links with relevant schools, organisations and outside agencies

Inclusion of Pupils with SEND

- Dover College aims to be as inclusive as possible in the context of its financial, buildings and site constrictions. We follow advice from a range of sources, including that provided as a result of both internal and external assessments, on how to adapt the curriculum and the learning environment for pupils with SEND.
- All clubs, trips and activities offered to pupils at Dover College are available to pupils with special educational needs, including those with mental health, emotional or social difficulties. Where it is necessary, the school will use the resources available to it to provide additional adult support to enable the safe participation of the pupil



in the activity. The school pays heed to the Equality Act and considers accessibility to the curriculum, site and extracurricular activities on an individual basis.

Accessibility

- Dover College has some facilities off the main site, including drama and sport. The main site has buildings at three different levels, some of which are historic and listed buildings. Further information can be found in the Dover College Accessibility Policy. We are continuously improving facilities as resources become available, in line with the requirement to make reasonable adaptations to meet the needs of pupils with disabilities, and facilitate access for adults with disabilities (Equality Act, 2010). However, the school has limited financial resources to have to make any adjustments with a significant cost; therefore, it is essential that parents are aware of the physical limitations of the site and the school's ability to implement adjustments.

Facilities and resources for Pupils with SEND

- The Learning Support Department is the base where individual and small group programmes for literacy or maths, are delivered by specialist teachers, on a withdrawal basis, using teaching resources for specific learning barriers. This currently consists of one small-dedicated room in the Prep School and two in the Senior School. Rooms are well resourced and Pupils have access to ICT including touch screen monitors and specialist software for literacy and numeracy, differentiated resources, e.g. dyslexia friendly reading material, coloured overlays, maths manipulatives and materials, e.g. coloured photocopying paper.
- Dover College does not provide Teaching Assistants for mainstream classes.
- The effectiveness of resources are monitored and evaluated by the Head of Learning Support, the Director of Studies and Senior Management Team (SMT). Feedback from pupils and parents/carers is encouraged and welcomed.

Responsibility for the Coordination of SEND Provision

The Governors, in co-operation with the Headmaster, are responsible for the general SEND policy and approach, for establishing appropriate staffing and funding, for maintaining monitoring oversight, reviewing policy and reporting to parents annually. The governors have appointed Mr John Evans as the link governor for SEN.

The Headmaster, Mr. Gareth Doodes, has strategic responsibility for overseeing SEND provision and keeping the governors fully informed. With the Senior Management Team



(SMT) and the Head of Learning Support, the Headmaster is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the success of the policy and ensuring necessary revisions are undertaken. The Headmaster, in collaboration with the governing body and SMT makes decisions about funding, in the light of the School Development Plan.

The Prep School Deputy Head Pastoral, Mrs Tracey Mills, is responsible for safeguarding, pastoral care and the emotional wellbeing of pupils in the Prep School, but oversees all safeguarding as Designated Safeguarding Lead. With the Housemasters, Housemistresses, Senior, Prep and EYFS SENCOs and Medical Centre staff, pupils with medical conditions, emotional and mental health difficulties are fully supported.

The Prep School Deputy Head Academic, Mr Brett Fairclough, is responsible for all curricular and academic matters in the Prep school.

The Director of Studies, Mrs Therese Taylor, is responsible for all curricular and academic matters in the Senior School and is the line manager for the Head of Learning Support.

The Head of Learning Support, Mrs. Joy Ellerington is responsible for

- the implementation of the school SEND Policy
- liaising and advising staff on SEND matters
- liaising with parents (in conjunction with House staff) and external agencies
- managing the staff of the Learning Support Department
- coordinating provision for pupils with SEND
- appropriate use of learning plans, e.g. SEN Support Plan
- overseeing the records of all children with SEND
- contributing to the in-service training of staff
- managing the Learning Support Departmental budget

Mrs Ellerington is a Qualified Teacher (Learning and Skills), with specialist qualifications in literacy development and mathematics education. She joined the Learning Support Department at Dover College in January 2007 and took over the role of SENCO on the retirement of Mrs Eberlein. She regularly attends the local SENCO Forum, and the Annual SEN conference to maintain up to date understanding of legislation, local provision and need, and to share good practice. Mrs Ellerington currently hold the following Qualifications:

Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS)

Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Education (2010)

Advanced diploma in Equality and Diversity (2010)



Graduate Diploma in Mathematics Education (2013)

Master's Degree in Education (2014)

National Award, Special Educational Needs Coordinator (NASENDCO) (2016)

Learning Support Teacher, Mrs Felicity Smart

Felicity Smart is a qualified teacher who has worked in a variety of settings from Pre-school through to Secondary, both as a classroom teacher and as a specialist literacy support teacher. For six years, she worked as part of a team in the Learning Support Department at a Prep school in Broadstairs. She joined Dover College in September 2016.

She holds the following qualifications:

B.A. Hons joint degree – English and Music

Post Graduate Certificate in Education

Sounds~Write Practitioner

Post Graduate Certificate in Literacy and Dyslexia

Mrs Shirley Eberlein – Access Arrangements

Mrs Eberlein is a qualified teacher and an experienced Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO). She has been a SENCO and is a visiting lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University.

She holds the following qualifications –

B.Ed (Hons) English & Education

MA (Enabling Learning)

Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

Postgraduate Certificate - Speech and Language Difficulties

Postgraduate Certificate - Literacy Difficulties/Dyslexia

Postgraduate Certificate Supporting Adults with Dyslexia & Co-occurring Difficulties

Certificate in Competence in Educational Testing (British Psychological Society Test User: Educational, Ability/Attainment - BPS Register of Qualifications in Test Use No: 382257)

Certificate in Psychometric Testing Assessment and Access Arrangements (CTP3A)

Associate of the Dyslexia Guild

Sounds~Write Practitioner

The EYFS Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) Miss Chloe Bean is responsible for the daily implementation of the school SEND policy in the Early Years Department, Infant and Prep School.



All members of the Learning Support Department participate in a programme of ongoing continued professional development and attendance at relevant events.

Our Learning Support Staff have specialisms in -

- assessment
- dyslexia
- literacy difficulties
- maths anxiety/maths difficulties
- dyscalculia

Roles and Responsibilities of Staff, Pupils and Parents

All members of the school community work towards the school's aims through a shared commitment to inclusive partnership and developing school procedures for SEN identification, provision and review.

Teachers have direct responsibility for the wellbeing and progress of pupils in their classes. Where subject teachers are concerned about a pupil's progress, and have identified gaps in skills or knowledge, they may organise additional support individually or as a department. If concerns arise they may request specific support from Learning Support staff. If it is felt such pupils require further assessment and/or individual support, parents/carers will be contacted to discuss future action.

Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and progress and participate in regular reviews of their support and voice their opinions. Pupils, are vital participants through involvement in identifying strengths and weaknesses, support and sharing their views.

Parents/Carers play a key role in enabling pupils to reach their potential. They are expected to inform the school of any relevant essential information pertaining to their child's special educational needs or any factors that could affect this.

Admission Arrangements

Applications for a place at Dover College for all pupils will be considered on an individual basis.

This section should be read in conjunction with –



- Admissions Policy
- Accessibility Policy
- Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy
- Dover College Prospectus
- Dover College Admissions Form
- Terms and Conditions
- Statement of fees

There is a requirement for parents/carers to declare any known special or additional educational need their child has, in order to facilitate impartial consideration of the level and nature of additional provision required on entry to school. The provision of this information is not prejudicial to the admissions procedure.

Where there is an **Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP)**, all information will be considered by the Headmaster, Head of Learning Support and other appropriate staff, and a decision made as to whether Dover College is able to meet the statutory provision and deliver interventions specified on the EHCP.

Whilst having due regard to the Equality Act (2010) and the requirement to make reasonable adjustments, Dover College has limited financial resources to make any adjustments with a significant cost. Our geographical location, historic listed buildings, split-level and off-site facilities are additional factors, which have to be taken into account when considering reasonable adjustments.

In order to make an informed decision, before an offer of a place is made, we collect information about the pupil's history, which will be reviewed by the Head of Learning Support and fed back to admissions and/or the Headmaster. This may include -

- a special educational needs/disability questionnaire to be completed by parents/carers
- copies of school reports and individual, educational or support plans
- copies of Educational Psychologist, Specialist Teacher, professional or diagnostic reports
- reports from outside agencies or educational support services which may have been involved with the pupil

An invitation for the prospective pupil to attend Taster Day(s) may be made and an invitation for parents/carers to a meeting with the Headmaster and/or Learning Support Staff to ascertain the level of support required.



Once an offer of a place has been made and a pupil joins, Dover College the pupil will be added to the Individual Needs Tracking and monitoring system.

Individual Needs Tracking and monitoring system

Pupils identified as having SEND or needing additional support are added to the INTrAM (Individual Needs Tracking and Monitoring) system. A profile is created to both inform staff and to monitor progress. The profile records a pupils' strengths and specific difficulties, provides information about pupil and parental views, pupil needs, additional advice and recommended support strategies. It is available to all relevant staff for their reference on the school's intranet and is updated on a regular basis by LS staff.

At this point, a level of support will be added in accordance with the Dover College's Graduated Response.

Identification and Assessment of Pupils' Needs

At Dover College, we monitor the progress of all pupils across the academic year to review their academic progress. Where progress is not sufficient, even if a special educational need has not been identified, the teacher/department will put in place extra support to enable the pupil to catch up and will inform and liaise with the Learning Support department.

1. We use a range of assessments to screen all the pupils at various points, e.g. in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) the Early Repetition Battery; Key Stage 1, Speech Link and Language Link; Key Stage 2, reading and maths tests; Shell and 3rd Form reading and spelling tests.
2. Each teacher is responsible for the learning and development of **all** pupils within the class, and for the early identification of those who may have special educational needs. Teachers use pupil assessment data as well as their own observations and professional judgement to aid the process. Inset is provided to aide staff understanding and identification of SEND
3. The Senior School tracking system is used to monitor the progress of all pupils and the progress of SEND pupils compared with peers.
4. Referrals and concerns raised by teachers, parents or pupils themselves are discussed and investigated

If there are concerns, regarding a pupil parents will be contacted and if necessary the pupil will be added to the Individual Needs Tracking and monitoring system and a level of support will be added in accordance with the Dover College's Graduated Response.

Dover College's Graduated Response



Our procedures are designed to offer a graduated response to special educational needs in line with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2015)

Pupils with SEND are educated in the mainstream context along with their peers and their access to the curriculum is individualised where appropriate in line with our graduated response and the pupils' needs. Small group and individual literacy and numeracy withdrawal support is provided by the Learning Support staff. The school seeks to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum and to maximise the benefits of interventions, teaching strategies and groupings while minimising the loss of curriculum breadth.

Plans for any intervention or alternative curriculum are based on the Code of Practice recommended cycle; assessment, planning, implementation and review to maximise academic opportunity and success.

Therefore the individualised support we provide for pupils is very varied but as a broad outline may include the following graduated responses—

Whole school response

All teachers are teachers of pupils with special educational needs.

High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will meet the individual needs of the majority of children and young people. As part of our normal teaching arrangements, all pupils will access some additional teaching to help them catch-up if the progress monitoring indicates that this is necessary; this will not imply that the pupil has a special educational need.

All teachers will have some pupils who at times are not making progress. This may relate directly to an identified or unidentified special educational or additional need. Alternatively, lack of progress may stem from factors in the way they have been taught, gaps in their learning or English being an additional language (EAL).

All pupils' progress is monitored and tracked by their teachers and whole school systems, reported to parents through Housemasters and Housemistresses and at assessment points across the academic year. Additional support for pupils experiencing short-term difficulties is provided by teachers and within departments and the effects on their access to the curriculum and progress is monitored implementing the four-part cycle of Assess, Plan, Do, Review. Observations, suggestions for differentiation, in class support strategies and resources may be made by Heads of Department and Learning Support staff.

In-class Support

If teachers concerns persist, with parental /carer's permission, the LS Department may liaise with subject teachers, house or medical staff, observe in class or undertake a more formal assessment of pupils' literacy and numeracy skills. Learning Support staff offer, to the whole school, support and expertise to help resolve difficulties and promote positive solutions for pupils experiencing barriers to their learning. They employ a range of strategies to achieve this including –

- identification & assessment of barriers to learning
- designing individual learning programmes
- advising and working with colleagues (academic & pastoral)
- liaising with external agencies
- communicating with parents

This consultation may result in –

- additional suggestions for classroom teaching and support strategies
- additional suggestions for behavioural /pastoral support
- Provision of differentiated materials e.g. coloured photocopying paper/large squared maths books
- Provision of differentiated resources, e.g. dyslexia friendly reading material, coloured overlays, maths manipulatives
- personalised support plans for individual pupils
- a recommendation for referrals to outside agencies

Group Support

Some pupils with or without a special educational need may require more specialist additional short-term support to be provided by the Learning support department.

The aims are to -

- address specific barriers to learning
- learn techniques and strategies to relieve stress and anxiety
- improve these pupils ability to become independent learners

Learning support may be provided by –

- Occasional lessons to address a specific issue
- Drop in sessions for pupils who want help with a specific issue or piece of work
- Short blocks of lessons to address specific issues, including organisational difficulties, study skills, time management and revision



- Individualised Curriculum
- On-going small group support
- In early years, in class support, a Key Person or Support Practitioner may support one or more children to understand the content of the teaching/concepts being covered.

Individual Support

If following normal provision improvements in progress are not seen, we will contact parents to discuss the use of internal or external assessments that will help us to address these needs better. Parents will be actively supported to contribute to assessment, planning and review.

The Learning Support Department has been developed to ensure that we provide each child with the opportunity to fulfil his or her potential, by creating a secure and sensitive environment for effective learning. We aim to develop a positive attitude towards learning by providing support to develop pupils' academic and metacognitive skills, self-esteem and confidence. To achieve this, the pupils and parents work with staff to develop an individual programme to develop skills and strengths and address areas of difficulty. A range of assessments is used to aid the tracking of pupil progress.

For some pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) this will mean the withdrawal from some curriculum subjects on a rotational basis, in order to deliver small group, 1:1 or paired literacy or numeracy programmes. Support takes place (following agreement with the parents/carers) through a system of withdrawal from the timetable for the required number of periods a week. In the senior school pupils will not be withdrawn from English or mathematics (unless by arrangement for specific mathematics support) and pupils' withdrawal timetables will be changed during the year to ensure that no one subject suffers unnecessarily. Some teaching takes place outside the timetable. A Personalised Action Plan (PAP) or Support Plan will be drawn up for pupils receiving SEN Support.

Withdrawal, 1:1 lessons with Learning Support staff is a chargeable provision (see current Statement of Fees)

SEN Categories

The SEN Code of Practice recognises four broad areas of SEN. These are –

1. Communication and interaction (Speech, Language and Communication Needs, and Autistic Spectrum Disorder)
2. Cognition and learning (general learning and specific learning difficulties)
3. Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
4. Sensory and/or physical needs

Communication and interaction

At Dover College, we understand that an important feature of the school is to enable all pupils to develop emotional resilience and social skills, both through direct teaching e.g. PSHE, tutor time, and indirectly with every conversation adults have with pupils throughout the day.

Cognition and learning

The Learning Support Department may in consultation with parents, use a range assessment tools to try to determine a pupils barrier to learning.

The purpose of this more detailed assessment is to understand what additional resources and different approaches are required to enable the pupil to make better progress. These will be shared with parents, put onto a pupil profile and reviewed regularly, and refined / revised if necessary in liaison with the pupil, parents and staff. Parents views are elicited using a feedback sheet, telephone, email communication, or at a meeting with LS staff. At this point, we will have identified that the pupil has a special educational need because the school is making special educational provision for the pupil, which is additional and different to what is normally available.

If the pupil is able to make good progress using this additional and different resource (but would not be able to maintain this good progress without it), we will continue to identify the pupil as having a special educational need. If the pupil is able to maintain good progress without the additional and different resources, he or she will not be identified with special educational needs. When any change in identification of SEN is changed parents will be notified.

We will ensure that all teachers and support staff who work with the pupil are aware of the support to be provided and the teaching approaches to be used.

Social, emotional and mental health

Pupils in the early stages of emotional and social development because of their special educational needs will be supported to enable them to develop and mature appropriately. This will usually require additional and different resources, beyond that required by pupils who do not need this support.

Social, emotional and mental health support is primarily the responsibility of the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and the Head of the Prep School. The Prep School SENCO and Head of Learning Support may become involved in this provision if necessary.



For some pupils with the most need this area, help is available through pastoral systems in place. This may be through the Prep School, Senior School house system, tutors and the Medical centre staff; mentor time with Deputy Head (Pastoral) or other designated members of staff. It may also require external referrals to Child and Young Persons Mental Health Service (CYPMHS), time out space in the Medical Centre for pupils to use when upset or agitated and access to the School Counsellor. This special educational needs provision will be provided wherever possible alongside other children taking account of –

- the wishes of parents/carers
- the pupil's needs
- the resources available to the school
- the efficient education of other pupils in the school

Sensory and/or physical needs

See Accessibility

Assessment Arrangements for Public Examinations

In line with annually updated guidance from the Joint Council of Qualifications (JCQ), pupils are assessed for eligibility by Mrs Eberlein from Y9 onwards, or following receipt of reports from Outside Agencies, e.g. Educational Psychologists. The school is not obliged to accept the recommendations in the report.

Access arrangements are not 'blanket' arrangements, and may not be applicable in all subjects due to the nature of the pupil's difficulty or type of examination undertaken. Therefore, requests for access arrangements must be supported by evidence from subject teachers and are part of the pupil's normal way of working. Applications (with signed pupil permission) are made via Access Arrangements Online. Parents/carers are kept fully informed throughout the process. Liaison takes place between the Head of Learning Support, the Director of Studies and the Examinations Officer (Mrs Eva Aylward) during the application process and public examination period. The implementation of permitted access arrangements remains the responsibility of the Examinations Officer and is dependent on resources (both human and physical) available for each examination season. Close contact will be maintained between House staff, tutors, subject teachers and parents/carers.

English as an Additional Language

Difficulties arising from a difference of language between home and school are dealt with through other school policies and procedures.



Pupils in the senior school requiring additional language tuition because English is not their first language are supported by staff from the International Studies Centre, under the direction of the Head of the ISC. Where there are concerns about pupils, who may also have an additional or special educational need, liaison occurs and alternative support strategies/resources may be suggested. Referrals to outside agencies may be made if appropriate, in full consultation and agreement with parents/carers

Education and Health Care Plan

In very rare circumstances, it may be necessary to consider applying for an Education and Health Care Plan if a pupil has severe, complex and long term difficulties. Consultation with parents/carers and all involved with supporting the pupil will take place.

Records of SEND

Dover College is fully committed to compliance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 which came into force on 1 March 2000.

Dover College's policy is that hard or electronic copies will be stored securely until pupils reach the age of 25, after which they will be destroyed. The school will therefore follow procedures which aim to ensure that all employees, who have access to any personal data held by or on behalf of the school, are fully aware of and abide by their duties under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Assessment results are confidential. This data will only be shared with the pupil, parent/carer and other relevant professionals in school. Only those with legitimate access will be allowed to see it. The data contained within, will only be used in respect to the pupil, except that the data may be used anonymously to provide aggregate data across the organisation.

A SEND list is kept of pupils' specific difficulties and is updated on a regular basis by IN staff. Specific information about pupil and parental views, pupil needs, additional advice and recommended support strategies is circulated to all relevant staff and available only for their reference on the school's intranet.

Evaluating Success of Provision

In general terms the effectiveness of the school's SEN policy and provision is evaluated through analysis of whole school tracking and the use of value added data; performance in end of year internal and public examinations; the movement of pupils on the SEND list.



In more specific terms, assessments used at the start of intervention form a baseline from which to assess progress made and records are used to inform further identification and intervention. Use is made of 'hard data' such as NFER CAT scores, standardised reading and spelling tests and 'soft data' such as pupil confidence.

The setting of targets and their review in using PAPs and support plans involves the parent, pupil, teaching and Learning Support, staff, with targets shared with academic staff via the school's Intranet. The views of pupils and parents are actively sought.

The INTraM system for tracking and monitoring the academic and metacognitive progress of pupils with SEND also provides qualitative evidence of progress the dissemination of pupils and parental views and aid staff access to information and support strategies.

In Service Training (CPD)

Learning Support staff's expertise and knowledge is the keystone of the department and Dover College's commitment to their training needs are built into the annual department development plan. They attend regular courses, conferences and seminars throughout the academic year in order to update their knowledge and skills for the benefit of pupils with SEND and the staff who support them in school. Information gained is disseminated to staff via INSET Days; the Academic Planning Committee; departments or individuals. The Head of Learning Support is involved in the induction of new staff. Information to support high quality teaching is accessible to relevant staff via the school Intranet.

Working with Parents

Learning Support staff attend annual Parents Evenings, where all parents of pupils at Dover College are invited to discuss the progress of their children formally at and they produce a written report twice a year. In addition we are happy to arrange meetings outside these times. We believe early communication is essential.

In general terms, parents/carers are informed about SEN through discussions on entry, or as the need is identified, via House and Learning Support staff. The Learning Support Department operates an 'open door' policy, which means that parents/carers have access to LS staff as well as the Head of Learning Support, in person, by telephone or email. In most cases, concerns about a pupil will be shared initially between the parent and House staff.

Parents/carers, who have the ultimate responsibility for all aspects of their children's lives, are key partners in their children's education. All Housemasters or Housemistresses have mobile telephone numbers printed on the school calendar, ensuring that parents/carers can contact them or leave a message which will be responded to as soon as possible.

Parents/carers are urged to make early contact with Houses if problems arise.



Involving Pupils in their Learning

When a pupil has been identified to have special educational needs because special educational provision is being made for him or her, the pupil will be consulted about and involved in the arrangements made for them as part of person-centred planning. Parents are likely to play a more significant role in the childhood years with the young person taking more responsibility and acting with greater independence in later years.

LS staff actively seek pupils with SEND views about their strengths and weaknesses, learning preferences, styles, choice of targets and support strategies. They aim to teach strategies which enable pupils to become independent learners; adopt skills for life; develop self-esteem, confidence and a positive self-concept. Pupils review their progress and set new targets collaboratively with LS staff. Success is celebrated immediately by verbal praise or rewards using the whole school system.

Central to the Department's ethos is the importance of the development of self-efficacy -

'A strong sense of efficacy enhances human accomplishment and personal well-being in many ways. People with high assurance in their capabilities approach difficult tasks as challenges to be mastered rather than as threats to be avoided. Such an efficacious outlook fosters intrinsic interest and deep engrossment in activities. They set themselves challenging goals and maintain strong commitment to them. They heighten and sustain their efforts in the face of failure. They quickly recover their sense of efficacy after failures or setbacks. They attribute failure to insufficient effort or deficient knowledge and skills which are acquirable. They approach threatening situations with assurance that they can exercise control over them. Such an efficacious outlook produces personal accomplishments, reduces stress and lowers vulnerability to depression.' Albert Bandura

Arrangements for Supporting Pupils with SEND in Transferring Between Phases of Education or in Preparing for Adulthood

At Dover College we work closely with the educational settings used by the pupils before they transfer to us in order to seek the information that will make the transfer as seamless as possible. Parents should have provided copies of school reports, IEPs or provision plans, assessments and outside agency reports before an offer of a place has been made. LS staff may visit the feeder school (or vice versa) to discuss required support strategies to support transfer of school, additional and in class support strategies. If pupils are transferring from the Prep School, their future support needs are discussed and lessons transferred during the summer term.



We also contribute information to a pupil's onward destination by providing information to the next setting when requested, pass on information about the pupil's educational history and complete other transfer documentation as required

Local Offer

Dover College currently supports a range of mild to moderate special educational needs, including dyslexia, dyspraxia, maths difficulties, dyscalculia, speech, language and communication difficulties and mild attention difficulties.

Provision for the Gifted and Talented cohort is the responsibility of the Director of Studies.

The local authority's local offer is published on -

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs>

Parents without internet access are welcome to make an appointment with the Head of Learning Support or the Prep School SENCO for support to gain the information they require.

Links to Support Services, Agencies and Voluntary Organisations

Outside agencies involvement may be sought to supplement the professional work of the school. This is discussed fully with parents/carers and permission obtained before referrals are made. Costs of these assessments (if applicable) and any subsequent charges as a result of outside agency involvement are the responsibility of the parent. They may also be involved in more informal consultative roles. Advice may be sought from –

- School Medical Centre
- School Counsellor
- Speech and Language Therapist
- GP
- Occupational Therapist
- Educational Psychologist
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
- Social Services via Deputy Head (Pastoral)
- LEA Specialist Teaching Services - Hearing or Visual, Physical/Sensory Impairment
- Membership of professional networks e.g. Nasen, Learning Works

Complaints Procedure



In the event of a complaint, parents are advised initially to consult the Housemasters/Housemistresses, class/subject teacher and/or Head of Learning Support. If informal discussion does not resolve the issue, parents may discuss the matter with the Headmaster who may -

- arrange a joint meeting with complainant
- undertake further investigations
- seek the involvement of external agencies, such as the Kent Parent Partnership Service
- take action to address the complaint
- decide that the complaint does not warrant any action, and advise complainants of further action they can take