

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) POLICY

AREA:	St Mark's C E Junior School
AUDIENCE:	ALL STAKEHOLDERS
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Brunel Academies Trust (BAT) is a company limited by guarantee with registration number 10074054 and registered offices at Unit B4C Orbital Retail Park, Thamesdown Drive, Swindon, SN25 4AN; BAT is the parent company and Sole Corporate Member of the subsidiary company, Brunel Education (BE) is a charitable company limited by guarantee with registration number 11991915, registered with the Charities Commission of England Wales (Charity Number 1214820) and with registered offices at Unit B4C Orbital Retail Park, Thamesdown Drive, Swindon, SN25 4AN

Tier 1 policies are centrally held policies relating to Education, Governance, People Services, Finance, ICT and Operations and are the direct responsibility of BAT. Tier 1 policies are created by the BAT Central Services Team but adopted and reviewed by the BAT Board.

We are committed to a sustainable future and to improving the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the community. We are dedicated to environmental improvements that foster a sustainable future and lead to social and economic improvements in the communities we operate within.

Amendments to policy		
Date	Section	Amendment

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1. Aims and objectives

Our special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy aims to:

- Make sure the schools in our trust fully implement national legislation and guidance regarding pupils with SEND
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEND
- Make sure the SEND policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff

Brunel Trust SEND/Inclusion Principles	
1.	Building Positive Relationships: Employees take time to understand each child as an individual, offering <u>tailored support</u> to meet their <u>unique needs</u> .
2.	Working in partnership: Engaging <u>families and professional agencies</u> with the shared aim of ensuring the best outcomes for learners.
3.	Ambitious, Accessible Curriculum: Curriculums are designed to be both <u>challenging</u> and <u>accessible</u> , ensuring each learner can <u>thrive</u> .
4.	Quality First Teaching: Practitioners are <u>skilled</u> in delivering high-quality lessons, with a focus on <u>adapting</u> their teaching to support every learner's <u>growth</u> .
5.	Targeted and Structured Support: We offer <u>evidence-based</u> , personalised interventions to ensure every learner makes <u>meaningful progress</u> .
6.	Encouraging Aspiration: Every learner is encouraged to reach their full potential, with <u>consistent support</u> and encouragement to achieve <u>their personal goals</u> .
7.	Celebrating Diverse Successes: We recognise and celebrate a wide range of <u>achievements</u> , fostering pride in all forms of <u>participation and progress</u> .

2. Vision and values

Our Vision

Our vision is to be a creative education community opening doors, opening minds and realising potential.

Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure all our children and young people are given every opportunity to be engaged, inspired and empowered to enable them to flourish and lead safe and successful lives.

Our Values

The Vision and Mission are underpinned by our shared core **values**:

Be kind



Be brave



Be honest



Be imaginative



Be inclusive



3. Legislation and guidance

This is based on the statutory guidance [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#), [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) and [working together to improve school attendance](#).

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

- [Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN co-ordinators (SENCOs) and the special educational needs (SEN) information report
- The [Equality Act 2010](#) (section 20), which sets out schools' duties to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities
- The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out schools' responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes those with a disability) and those who don't share it
- The [academy trust governance guide](#) which sets out governors' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- The [School Admissions Code](#), which sets out schools' obligation to admit all pupils whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and their duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special education needs

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

4. Inclusion and equal opportunities

In our trust we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all pupils, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We are committed to offering all pupils the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations.

We will achieve this by making reasonable adjustments to teaching, the curriculum and the school environment to make sure that pupils with SEND are included in all aspects of school life.

5. Definitions

5.1 Special educational needs

A pupil has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability that calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

They have a **learning difficulty or disability** if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age, or
- A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools

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.

5.2 Disability

Pupils are considered to have a **disability** if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

All schools in our trust will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

5.3 The 4 areas of need

The needs of pupils with SEND are grouped into 4 broad areas. Pupils can have needs that cut across more than 1 area, and their needs may change over time.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the pupil's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or not understand or use the social rules of communication. Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.

AREA OF NEED	
Cognition and learning	Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers. A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including: • Specific learning difficulties, which impact 1 or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia • Moderate learning difficulties • Severe learning difficulties • Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment
Social, emotional and mental health	These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have: • Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder • Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder • Suffered adverse childhood experiences These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.
Sensory and/or physical	Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided. Pupils may have: • A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment • A physical impairment These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The SENCO

The SENCO of each school in the trust will:

- Inform any parents that their child may have SEN and then liaise with them about the pupil's needs and any provision made
- Work with the headteacher and SEND Link Governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching

- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- Be the point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to make sure that appropriate provision is provided
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to make sure that the pupil and their parents/carers are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned
- When a pupil moves to a different school or institution: Make sure that all relevant information about a pupil's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution, in a timely manner
- Work with the headteacher and governing board to make sure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Make sure the school keeps its records of all pupils with SEND up to date and accurate
- With the headteacher, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- With the headteacher, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy
- With the headteacher and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

6.2 Board of trustees

The governing board is responsible for making sure the following duties are carried out, though the duties can be delegated to a committee or an individual:

- Co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and developing the local offer
- Do all it can to make sure that every pupil with SEND gets the support they need
- Make sure that pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who don't have SEND
- Inform parents/carers when their child's school is making special educational provision for the child
- Make sure that arrangements are in place in our schools to support any pupils with medical conditions
- Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- Have a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND
- Provide an annual report for parents/carers on their child's progress
- Record accurately and keep up to date records of the provision made for pupils with SEND

- Publish information on each school's website about how the schools are implementing their SEND policy, in an SEN information report
- Publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and our schools' accessibility plans
- Make sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENCO for each school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out, and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out
- Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND

6.3 The SEND Link Governor

The trust's SEND trustee is Jenny Baylis.

The SEND Link Governor will:

- Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at [board/local governing body] meetings
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within [each/their] school and update the board on this
- Work with the headteacher and SENCO to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in their school

6.4 The Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Work with the SENCO and SEND Link Governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school
- Work with the SEND Link Governor to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for pupils with SEND in the school, and their progress
- Have responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEND budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual pupils
- Make sure that the SENCO has enough time to carry out their duties
- Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of pupils on the SEND register
- Advise the LA when a pupil needs an EHC needs assessment, or when an EHC plan needs an early review
- With the SENCO, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- With the SENCO, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- With the SENCO and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison, with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

6.5 Class teachers

Class teachers are the first point of contact for parents regarding their child's learning, progress and day-to-day provision.

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is differentiated to meet pupil needs through a graduated approach
- The progress and development of every pupil in their class
- Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- Working with the SENCO to review each pupil's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision
- Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report
- Communicating with parents/carers regularly to:
 - Set clear outcomes and review progress towards them
 - Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set outcomes
 - Identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school
 - Listen to the parents'/carers' concerns and agree their aspirations for the pupil

6.6 Parents or carers

Parents or carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development.

Parents or carers of a pupil on the SEND register will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about the pupil's SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. They will be:

- Invited to termly meetings to review the provision that is in place for their child
- Asked to provide information about the impact of SEN support outside school and any changes in the pupil's needs
- Given the opportunity to share their concerns and, with school staff, agree their aspirations for the pupil
- Given an annual report on the pupil's progress

The school will take into account the views of the parents or carers in any decisions made about the pupil.

6.7 The pupil

Pupils will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. This might involve the pupil:

- Explaining what their strengths and difficulties are
- Contributing to setting targets or outcomes
- Attending review meetings

- Giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions

The pupil's views will be taken into account in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.

7. SEN information report

Every school in the trust publishes a SEN information report on its website, which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school.

The information report will be updated annually and as soon as possible after any changes to the information it contains.

8. Our approach to SEND support

8.1 Identifying pupils with SEND and assessing their needs

Our approach to identifying and supporting SEN pupil need is an on-going process and highly responsive to need at the time. This includes:

- adapting planning in response to feedback (using an assess, plan, do review cycle),
- discussing needs and planning adaptations at class and year group level
- use of the quick checker to identify areas of need

We then use more formal processes as identified below:

Pupil progress meetings take place every term.

The class teacher, Head of School, and Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENCO) discuss children who are not making progress or showing appropriate attainment.

Assessments are made using the school baselines and a range of assessments such as ELS for phonics, Nessy, IDL.

Referrals can then be made for additional support and assessments from specialist providers including speech and language, child health, educational psychologist, SSENS (specialist SEN support). We also have Educational psychologists attend a clinic with staff to explore needs and support.

If we feel a pupil needs a neurodevelopmental pathway assessment our Local Authority follow the needs lead approach which requires a cycle of three action plans and evaluations to progress to the next assessment stage.

Throughout this process we maintain very close contact and dialogue with parents to ensure collective engagement and understanding. We have close links with the vision impairment team and one of our leaders is a Lead practitioner for Wiltshire specialising in Inclusion.

Staff will assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment when they start at the school. This will build on information from previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. They will also consider any evidence that the pupil may have a disability and if so, what reasonable adjustments the school may need to make.

Class teachers will regularly assess the progress for all pupils and identify those whose progress:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better their previous rate of progress
- Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers

- Widens the attainment gap

This may include progress in areas other than attainment; for example, wider development or social needs.

When teachers identify an area where a pupil is making slow progress, they will target the pupil's area of weakness with differentiated high-quality teaching. If progress does not improve the teacher will raise the issue with the SENCO to have an initial discussion about whether this lack of progress may be due to a special educational need. Where necessary they will, in consultation with the pupil's parents or carers, consider consulting an external specialist.

Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a pupil is recorded as having SEN.

Potential short-term causes of impact on behaviour or performance will be considered, such as bullying or bereavement. Staff will also take particular care in identifying and assessing SEN for pupils whose first language is not English.

When deciding whether the pupil needs special educational provision, school staff will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the pupil and their parents/carers. They will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether the school can provide it by adapting its core offer, or whether something different or additional is needed.

If a pupil is joining the school, and:

- Their previous setting has already identified that they have SEN
- They are known to external agencies
- They have an education, health and care plan (EHCP)

then the school will work in a multi-agency way to make sure it gets relevant information before the pupil starts at the school, so support can be put in place as early as possible.

8.2 Consulting and involving pupils and parents/carers

Our schools will put the pupil and their parents/carers at the heart of all decisions made about special educational provision.

When we are aiming to identify whether a pupil needs special education provision, we will have an early discussion with the pupil and their parents/carers. These conversations will make sure that:

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

Notes of these early discussions will be added to the pupil's record and given to their parents/carers.

We will formally notify parents/carers when it is decided that a pupil will receive special educational provision.

8.3 The graduated approach to SEN support

Once a pupil has been identified as having SEN, we will take action to remove any barriers to learning, and put effective special educational provision in place. This support will be delivered through successive rounds of a 4-part cycle known as the graduated approach.

1. Assess

The pupil's class teacher and the SENCO will carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. The views of the pupil and their parents/carers will be taken into account. The school may also seek advice from external support services.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly to help make sure that the support in place is matched to the pupil's need. For many pupils, the most reliable way to identify needs is to observe the way they respond to an intervention.

2. Plan

In consultation with the parents/carers and the pupil, the teacher and the SENCO will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review.

All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of the pupil's needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are needed. This information will be recorded on our management information system, Arbor , and will be made accessible to staff in a personalised pupil passport.

Parents/carers will be fully aware of the planned support and interventions and may be asked to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

3. Do

The pupil's class or subject teacher retains overall responsibility for their progress.

Where the plan involves group or 1-to-1 teaching away from the main class or subject teacher, they still retain responsibility for the pupil. They will work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.

The SENCO will support the teacher in further assessing the pupil's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on how to implement support effectively.

4. Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

We will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. This evaluation will be based on:

- The views of the parents/carers and pupils
- The level of progress the pupil has made towards their outcomes
- The views of teaching staff who work with the pupil

The teacher and the SENCO will revise the outcomes and support in light of the pupil's progress and development, and in consultation with the pupil and their parents/carers.

8.4 Levels of support

School-based SEN support

Pupils receiving SEN support will be placed on the SEND register. These pupils have needs that can be met by the school through the graduated approach. Where the pupil's needs cannot be adequately met with in-house expertise, staff will consider involving an external specialist as soon as possible.

The provision for these pupils is funded through the school's notional SEND budget.

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code K.

Education, health and care (EHC) plan

Pupils who need more support than is available through the school's school-based SEN provision may be entitled to an EHC plan. The plan is a legal document that describes the needs of the pupil, the provision that will be put in place, and the outcomes sought.

The provision for these pupils will be funded from the school's notional SEND budget, and potentially from the LA (from the high-level needs funding block of the dedicated schools grant).

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code E.

8.5 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision

We use the Plan, do, review approach to assess the impact of provision in supporting our SEND learners.

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- Tracking pupils' progress through data collated on Arbor
- Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support
- Using pupil voice
- Monitoring by the SENCO
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans
- Getting feedback from the pupil and their parents/carers

9. Attendance

Many pupils with SEND face complex barriers to attendance. Their right to an education is the same as any other pupil and therefore the attendance ambition for these pupils is the same as it is for any other pupil. However, they may need additional support.

Our approach to supporting pupils who are absent from school due to their SEND is set out in our attendance policy.

10. Safeguarding

We recognise that pupils with SEND can face additional safeguarding challenges. Children with disabilities are more likely to be abused than their peers and additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse, exploitation and neglect in this group.

For more details of the pastoral support we offer pupils with SEND, and the support we provide to help pupils overcome any communication barriers they face, see our safeguarding/child protection policy.

11. Expertise and training of staff

Training will regularly be provided to teaching and support staff. The headteachers and the SENCOs will continuously monitor to identify any staff in their school who have specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.

Our in house CPD is planned in line with the SIP priorities for SEND and Inclusion and plotted on our school improvement board to ensure coverage is well distributed across the team and individuals have the opportunity to develop personally.

We use our link schools and the wider trust to take part in CPD opportunities.

12. Links with external professional agencies

The trust recognises that we won't be able to meet all the needs of every pupil. Whenever necessary, our schools will work with external support services such as:

- Speech and language therapists
- Specialist teachers or support services
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- General practitioners or paediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS and MHST)
- Education welfare officers
- Social services

13. Admission and accessibility arrangements

Full details of the admissions and accessibility arrangements can be found on the school website policy pages www.st-marks.wilts.sch.uk/policies

13.1 Admission arrangements

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Where a child has an EHCP which names the school then that child will be admitted to the school, the admission of children with an EHCP are dealt with by the local authority (Wiltshire). The place will be made available when the school is named in the EHCP (above the PAN if places have already been offered up to this limit at that time).

13.2 Accessibility arrangements

Full details of the accessibility plan and audit can be found on the school website policy pages www.st-marks.wilts.sch.uk/policies

- The school is a single level building (circa 1960) with good access internally to all areas
- The school has an up to date Accessibility Plan
- The school site is wheelchair accessible with a disabled toilet large enough to accommodate changing. Where relevant, some toilets are fitted with additional support equipment. The school is all on one level with ramps at specified fire exits
- There is 1 marked disabled parking bay outside Reception

14. Complaints about SEND provision

Where parents/carers have concerns about SEND provision, they should first discuss these with their child's class teacher. If concerns remain unresolved, they should contact the SENCO or headteacher. We will seek to resolve concerns informally in the first instance. If this does not resolve the matter, parents/carers may submit a formal complaint in accordance with the Trust's Complaints Policy.

Formal complaints about SEND provision in any of our schools should be made to the headteacher in the first instance. They will be handled in line with the trusts complaints policy that can be found on the school website [BAT Complaints Policy V9 Mar 26 St Marks.pdf](#)

If the parent or carer is not satisfied with the school's response, they can escalate the complaint. In some circumstances, this right also applies to the pupil themselves.

To see a full explanation of suitable avenues for complaint, see pages 246 and 247 of the [SEN Code of Practice](#).

To find out about disagreement resolution and mediation services in our local area, please see the Wiltshire Local Authority pages www.wiltshire.gov.uk 01225 712620

15. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

15.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND policy. We will do this by evaluating whether or not we are meeting our objectives set out in section 1.

We will evaluate how effective our SEND provision is with regards to:

- All staff's awareness of pupils with SEND at the start of the autumn term
- How early pupils are identified as having SEND
- Pupils' progress and attainment once they have been identified as having SEND
- Whether pupils with SEND feel safe, valued and included in the school community through pupil voice and conferencing
- Comments and feedback from pupils and their parents/carers

15.2 Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by Inclusion Lead, SENCO and Headteacher **every year**. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

It will be approved by the board of trustees Primary LGC.

16. Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to the following documents

- SEN information report
- The local offer
- Accessibility plan
- Behaviour policy
- Complaints policy

This policy is adopted by the BAT Board of Trustees and will be reviewed every year or earlier if change to legislation.

Signed:  CEO

Signed:  Chairman of BAT Board of Trustees

Date:

This policy is adopted by St Mark's C E Junior School (part of the Brunel Academies Trust) and will be reviewed every year or earlier if change to legislation.

Signed:  Headteacher/Manager

Signed:  SEND Inclusion Lead

Date: 25.9.26

