



**Five  
Rivers®**

**FIVE RIVERS  
CHILD CARE LTD**

**Special  
Educational  
Needs and  
Disabilities  
Policy &  
Procedure**

*'Five Rivers is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment'*

Policy Owner	Headteacher
Authoriser	Head of Education
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## 1. Policy

### 1.1 Introduction

The SEND Policy has been written in accordance with:

- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code 0 – 25 years code of practice 2015
- The Equality Act (2010)
- The Children and Families Act (2014)

This Code of Practice provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations and applies to England. It relates to children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabled children and young people. A 'young person' in this context is a person over compulsory school age and under 25.

This policy details the provision for young people with special educational needs that we provide that is 'additional to' or 'different from' the provision made for all young people in state education.

### 1.2 Terms and Definitions

The below table sets out a number of terms and definitions used within this document:

Term	Definition
SEN/D	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

### 1.3 Data Protection

Five Rivers Child Care supports the objectives of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 and other legislation relating to Data Processing, including the Human Rights Act 1998, Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Five Rivers Child Care has a statutory obligation to process personal data in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018

Every member of Five Rivers Child Care has an obligation to ensure that the information they process (use) is collected, maintained and disclosed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Five Rivers Child Care Data Protection Policy.

## 1.4 Disclosure of Information

Any use or disclosure of information held within Five Rivers Child Care, without there being a legitimate purpose or legal basis, will be classed as unauthorised and is a criminal offence under Section 55 of the Act Right of Access (Subject Access Requests).

## 2. Aims

Five Rivers believes that every teacher is a teacher of every pupil- including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Quality first teaching is vital; however, for some pupils there are occasions when further additional support may be needed to help them achieve their potential and targets. We strive to support all pupils to enable them to achieve at school. In order to do this many steps are taken to support them through their learning journey. At Five Rivers we strive to raise the aspirations and expectations for all children with SEND, providing a focus on outcomes. We believe in providing every possible opportunity to develop the full potential of all. Pupils have the right to a broad and balanced education, including extra-curricular activities where appropriate. Full access to a bespoke curriculum that is both appropriate and aspirational for the individual. All pupils are valued, and their self-esteem promoted. We work in close partnership with parents/carers/care staff who play an active and valued role in a young person's education.

## 3. Objectives

Our objectives are:

- To work within the guidance provided in the SEND Code of Practice (2014);
- To maximise outcomes for pupils with SEND;
- To plan an effective and differentiated curriculum to meet the needs of pupils with SEND, to help them overcome their barriers to learning;
- To involve pupils and parents/carers/care staff in the identification and review of the targets set for individual pupils.
- To ensure that all who are involved with pupil are aware of the procedures for identifying their needs, supporting and teaching them;
- To provide support and advice to all staff working with young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities;
- To work in close partnership, where appropriate, with outside agencies to support pupils who have special educational needs.

## 4. Definition of Special Educational Needs

A child or young person has Special Educational needs (SEND) if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:

a) have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age;  
or

b) have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in a mainstream school.

A child under compulsory school age has special educational needs if they fall within the

definition at a) or b) above or would so do if special educational provision was not made for them (Clause 20 Children and Families Bill).

Children must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught. The Code of Practice does not assume that there are hard and fast categories of special educational needs, but recognises that children's needs and requirements may fall within or across four broad areas.

## 5. SEND categories we work with

### Communication and Interaction

This covers difficulty with different aspects of speech, language, or social communication. Students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are included in this category  
Cognition and Learning

This is where children and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation, and covers moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD) and profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD). It also includes specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

### Autism

Autism is a pervasive neuro-divergence that affects the way a person communicates and relates to people around them. Individuals with an autism diagnosis will show a range of characteristics, and no two individuals are affected in exactly the same way.

All autistic individuals share, to differing extents, impairments affecting their ability to:

- Understand and use non-verbal and verbal communication (for example not fully understanding the meaning of gestures, facial expressions or tone of voice).
- Understand social behaviour which affects their ability to interact with others
- Think and behave flexibly — which may be shown in restricted, obsessional or repetitive activities, understanding abstract concepts and/or difficulty with change.

In addition some autistic young people have acute sensory needs in relation to an enhanced or reduced perception of sounds, sights, smell, touch and taste, which affects their response to these sensory input and integration. They may also have coordination and planning difficulties and unusual sleep and untypical behavioural presentation such as repetitive movements or self-stimulatory behaviours. All the above difficulties mean that the young people are often highly anxious from trying to make sense of the world, and this may have an effect on their behaviour. Autistic young people, especially females, may mask their challenges and present neuro-typical behaviour in order to fit in, or divert attention away from them in order to avoid interaction. This in itself can cause exhaustion and low self-esteem, leading to heightened challenges when the young person is out of the school environment, meaning problems can be understated or not fully understood.

### Specific Learning Difficulties

The term 'Specific Learning Difficulty' (SpLD) is a term that refers to a difference or difficulty with particular aspects of learning. The most common SpLDs are dyslexia, dyspraxia, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder, dyscalculia and dysgraphia. An individual may have one of these

independently or in combination with others and there is a continuum from mild to severe. All children and young people have different abilities to think, remember and learn. When an individual has difficulties or weaknesses in just one or two areas in contrast to average or good cognitive skills this is called a Specific Learning Difficulty for example, struggling to form letters and hear word sounds.

### Social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH)

Social, Emotional and Mental Health SEMH is an overarching term for children who demonstrate difficulties with emotional regulation and/or social interaction and who may also be experiencing mental health problems. Children and young people who have difficulties with their emotional and social development may require additional support to interact successfully and find it difficult to make and sustain healthy relationships. This may be because of adverse childhood experiences. These difficulties may be displayed through the child or young person becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as through challenging, disruptive or socially inappropriate behaviour.

### Sensory and/or physical needs

Including Visual Impairment (VI), hearing Impairment (HI), Multi-sensory impairment (MSI) and Physical disability (PD) (SEND Code of Practice, 2014. P97)



## 6. Our Offer

We are fully committed to providing comprehensive and personalized support for our virtual learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We understand the unique challenges that come with remote education and strive to ensure that every student has the resources, guidance and assistance they need to succeed. We are proud to offer four tailored services in supporting our learners with SEND. Each model is designed to be flexible, ensuring that we remain committed to providing high-quality SEND support for all pupils.



**Sole Provider:** Lead on all aspects of SEND to support a pupil and their needs including the implementation of EHCP targets, progress towards outcomes and annual reviews. This is a comprehensive and personalised offer for each learner.



**Commissioned:** Work with lead professionals and external partners as part of the implementation of the EHCP targets and assess, plan, do, review cycles. Attendance at annual review meetings.



**Blended Learning:** Work with Head teacher/ SENCo to support the implementation of the EHCP targets and assess, plan, do, review cycles. Attendance at annual review meetings



**Fostering:** Work with lead professionals as part of the implementation of the EHCP targets and assess, plan, do, review cycles. Attendance at annual review meetings if required.

**Sole Provider:** As the sole provider, we take full responsibility for managing all aspects of SEND provision for our pupils, this included the development and implementation EHCP's and individual targets. Our offer includes providing specialist support and ensuring consistent monitoring and evaluation of progress made. We will work closely with families, educators and other professionals to ensure that every learner receives tailored support to maximize their educational experience and outcomes.

**Commissioned & Foster Placements:** We work alongside other professionals as part of a multi-disciplinary support system. Whilst we do not take the lead professional role on these occasions, we will contribute to the assess, plan, do review cycles and annual review processes, ensuring that and individuals needs are supported throughout their virtual education offer. We will also take guidance from the lead professional on any aspects of the EHCP targets/ individuals needs that they would like us to support as part of the commissioning process.

**Blended learning:** In partnership with lead professionals, usually the Headteacher & SENCo we work in collaboration to create a dynamic and adaptive offer in supporting a pupil through both virtual Education (provided by our service) and the face-to-face learning (provided by the school). The blended learning approach allows for regular progress reviews and adjustments to support as needed.

## 7. Identifying Special Educational Needs

Leaders meet to discuss the progress of the pupils with their teachers. This shared discussion may highlight any potential problems for further support to be planned. Any pupils who are falling significantly outside of the range of expected academic achievement in line with predicted performance indicators and grade boundaries will be monitored.

At Five Rivers many of our pupils have already been identified as having some form of SEND and most have an EHCP, however there are occasions in which new needs require identification.

- Once a pupil has been identified as possibly having SEND there will be additional monitoring by staff to gauge their possible difficulties.
- The pupils' teachers will adapt the curriculum to meet individual needs.
- The SENCO/ management will be consulted in order to ascertain if further support and advice may be needed.
- Parents/carers/care staff will be informed fully of every stage of the young person's development and the circumstances under which they are being monitored. They are encouraged to share information and knowledge with the school.

We recognise whilst the factors below may impact progress and attainment, they cannot immediately identify the student as having SEN. In these cases, the whole child, rather than the obvious presenting need, will be considered along with any possible causal factors (long term or temporary) and any underlying (previously unmet) needs which may be relevant;

- Attendance and punctuality,
- Health and welfare,
- English as an additional language (EAL),
- Pupil Premium Grant eligibility,
- Being a Child Looked after.

## 8. SEND Support

If a pupil has been identified as having a special educational need, appropriate provision will be put into place. Five Rivers follows the guidance contained in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2014). This recommends a graduated approach to SEND support.

The support provided consists of a four-part process:

- Assess
- Plan
- Do
- Review

This is an on-going cycle to enable the provision to be refined and revised as the understanding of the needs of the pupil grows. This cycle enables the identification of those interventions which are the most effective in supporting the pupil to achieve good progress and outcomes.

### **Assess**

This involves clearly analysing the pupil's needs using the teacher's assessment and experience of working with the pupil, details of previous progress and attainment, comparisons with peers and national data, as well as the views and experience of parents/carers/care staff.

More detailed assessments may be administered, and where relevant, advice from external support services may be sought. Barriers to learning should be clearly identified at this stage. All SEND children will also sit standardised testing as outlined in the assessment timetable.

### **Plan**

Planning will involve consultation between the teacher working with the young person, managers, parents/carers and, where appropriate, outside agencies, to plan the personalised learning, strategies and support required to overcome learning barriers. Clear, achievable targets will be set regarding the impact on progress, development and or behaviour that is expected and a clear date for review. Parental/carer involvement will be sought to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

All those working with the pupil will be informed of their individual needs, the support that is being provided, any particular teaching strategies/approaches that are being employed and the outcomes that are being sought.

### **Do**

The teachers of the pupil remain responsible for working with the pupil on a day-to-day basis.

### **Review**

A termly report is sent to relevant parties stating progress whether it be a teacher assessment or formative assessment results (dependent on how long the student has been on roll).

## **8.1 A request for Statutory Assessment – EHC Request**

Whilst most pupils already have an ECHP in place, there may be occasions in which a pupil does not. On these occasions, if a pupil's needs are complex or severe, we may suggest that we ask the local authority for a statutory assessment which may lead to an Education and Health Care Plan (EHC Plan). This document will describe a pupil's SEND and the provision recommended. EHC Plans can involve the Local Authority (LA) providing extra resources to help a young person. These could include extra funding to support the child in school, specialised equipment, or attendance at a specialist school/ setting. This additional provision is reviewed annually or sooner if required and would include Parents/carers, class teacher, SENCO, and possibly other professionals.

Senior management takes lead responsibility for submitting a request for statutory assessment and will work closely with the SENCO/ designated teacher. In addition, for looked after pupils, We will

work closely with the Virtual School as well as social workers.

Each Local Authority details the process of this assessment including timescales. More information can be found on the Local Authorities Local offer web page.

### ANNUAL EHC REVIEWS

The review process will enable changes to be made to an EHC plan so it remains relevant to the needs of our young person and the desired outcomes. There may be occasions when a re-assessment becomes appropriate, particularly when their needs change significantly.

The headteacher/SENCo will take lead responsibility for organising and preparing for the review and will work closely with the Young Person's teachers, carers and Local Authority.

In preparing for the review, the school must actively seek the written advice from the parents (Social Services guidance/advice will be relevant here), and additional professionals specified by the LA working with the young person.

#### **Actions following the Review.**

Once the review report is received by the LA they may take the following actions.

1. The EHC plan continues to be appropriate.
2. Amend the plan if:
  - a. Significant new needs have emerged;
  - b. Significant needs which are recorded on the care plan are no longer present;
  - c. The provision needs changing;
  - d. The child or young person should change schools.
3. Cease to maintain the EHC plan.

## 9. Roles and Responsibilities

### SENCO's/ Managers Role

The SENCO/ Virtual Service manager is responsible for coordinating the provision of special educational needs. This will involve:

- Overseeing day-to-day operation of the SEND policy
- Managing individual SEND records
- Coordinating provision for pupils with SEND
- Working alongside staff to assist them in identifying, assessing, and planning for pupils need and ensuring that all make progress
- Liaising with designated teacher where a Looked after Child has SEND
- Advising on graduated approach to SEND Support
- Advising on use of delegated budget/ other resources
- Liaising with relevant parties
- Links with other education settings and outside agencies
- Liaising with other schools on transition
- Ensuring that SEND records are up to date
- Contributing to and, where necessary, leading the continuing professional development (CPD) of staff.
- Ensuring SEND needs and outcomes can be met when working remotely due to Covid-19

### Teachers

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils they teach. High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have, or may have SEND.

Teachers have high aspirations for every pupil. With advice and support from the SENCO/ school leaders, clear targets are set and reviewed regularly. Teachers seek practical advice, teaching strategies, and information about the types of special educational need from the



### SENCO

Teachers involve relevant parties and pupils in planning and reviewing the progress of SEND pupils. The views and aspirations of Teachers, other professionals and young people are sought and regular updates on progress provided.

In order for staff to keep up to date with information, they have access to:

- The Five Rivers Virtual Education SEND Policy
- Guidance on identification of SEND in the Code of Practice
- Information on individual pupil's Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, including pupil profiles/provision mapping, outside agency reports and targets set
- Practical advice, teaching strategies, and information about types of special educational needs and disabilities
- Information available through the schools Information Report on each school's website.

Examples of strategies we may use to support pupils, along with a bespoke package and clinical support:

- sensory programmes
- movement breaks
- communication programmes
- social skills programmes
- emotional regulation programmes
- resilience exercises
- visual timetables

### Head Teachers/ School Leaders:

It is the Headteachers responsibility to;

- Oversee all SEND provision in school
- Ensure the accessibility plan of the school is up to date and takes pupils with SEND needs into account.
- Teaching observations
- Monitoring of teachers' planning and assessment records Analysis of assessment outcomes of SEND pupils
- Monitoring of special educational needs records including Individual education plans, PEP reviews, Annual reviews of statements etc.
- Monitoring of the progress of young people with special educational needs in meeting individual education plan targets.
- Monitoring of parental/ carer views about the quality of special educational needs provision.

### Proprietors:

The company undertakes regular monitoring and evaluation of policy and practice for special educational needs to ensure:

- The necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs teachers are aware of the importance of identifying and providing for those children who have special educational needs.
- Relevant parties are notified of a decision by the school that SEND provision is being made for their child
- The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2014) is adhered to when carrying out its duties towards all pupils with special educational needs, providing strategic support to the

## School

- The SEND policy is published on the Virtual Education website
- They monitor and review the SEND policy and the implementation of this alongside all other statutory policies as defined by the DfE.
- The company attaches great importance to working in partnership with parents/carers and social workers to achieve the very best for all young people. A central objective of our policy is to work in partnership with parents, carers, care staff and social workers of young people with special educational needs and to recognise the vital role they have to play in supporting their young person's education.
- To this end, care staff and social workers are encouraged to meet regularly with teachers and to make an active contribution to identification and planning of action to meet their young people's special educational needs.

A close working relationship is vital to ensure:

- early and accurate identification and assessment of SEND leading to appropriate intervention and provision
- continuing social and academic progress of children with SEND
- Personal and academic targets are set and met effectively
- all are involved in important decisions regarding a pupils education.

This may be through:

- discussions with the class teacher
- parent/carer/commissioning meetings
- discussions with the SENCO and/or other professionals
- target setting and monitoring of provision; through the Early Help process
- EHC Plan reviews

In cases where more frequent regular contact with parents is necessary, this will be arranged based on the individual pupil's needs. The SENCO/ headteacher may also signpost parents of pupils with SEND to the Local Authority.

In accordance with the Equality Act (2010), parents can access the school's SEND policy via the school websites.

## 10. Supporting pupils with medical needs

The company recognises that pupils with medical conditions may need additional support so that they have full access to education. Some pupils with medical conditions may also have disabilities and where this is the case the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act (2010).

If a pupil has a medical need, then a detailed Health Care Plan or risk assessment is compiled with support from a medical practitioner in consultation with parents/carers/Social Worker. This is to ensure that there is clarity around the identification and support for the pupils. These are discussed with all staff who are involved with the individual. When a Health Care Plan is implemented, we may also look at any staff training that may be needed to support this.

As Education is remote, it is agreed that parents/carers will take the lead on administering any medication and the management of any medical needs.

## 11. Evaluating the success of provision

Pupil progress will be monitored on a termly basis in line with the SEND Code of Practice.

Other performance indicators include

- Number of complaints regarding special educational needs provision
- Records of action taken in response to young people's special educational needs are identified in short term curriculum planning and are recorded on IEP's.
- Evidence through analysis of outcomes that young people with special educational needs are making progress.
- In service training (CPD)

We aim to keep all school staff up to date with relevant training and developments in relation to the needs of pupils with SEND. Relevant SEND focused external training opportunities are made available to all teaching and support staff where appropriate.

The SENCO/ headteacher will attend relevant SEND courses, disseminating relevant information to staff.

## 12. Bullying

Five Rivers will not tolerate harassment or bullying of children with SEND or disabilities. We believe that all children have a fundamental right to non-discriminative education, free from bias and disadvantage. The company will make every effort to eliminate all forms of discrimination and inequality. Please refer to the Anti-Bullying Policy for further information. This can be found on the school website.

## 13. Accessibility Plan

The Accessibility Plan is available on the school website.

## 14. Risk Assessments

Where appropriate, risk assessments are written for individual children where their SEND may cause harm to themselves and/or others. Risk assessment may also be requested to be provided by the commissioning body. These are discussed with the parents/carers and class teachers.

## Admission arrangements

The admission arrangements for all pupils are in accordance with national legislation, including the Equality Act 2010.

## 15. Transition arrangements

Many strategies are in place to enable a pupil's smooth transition to and from Five Rivers Education, as well as transition between year groups and key stages.

These include:

- discussions between the previous or receiving schools/teachers prior to the pupil joining/leaving
- access to the steppingstones programme
- additional and supported transition for pupils including relationship building
- Education may also be provided within the care-home setting to support transition



## 16. Access Arrangements

If required, standardised tests may need to be used when applying for access arrangements for Qualifications and exams. These tests may also be used to establish a baseline when young people are placed at our school and they will be retested periodically to track progression.