

GLC SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES (SEND) POLICY – SECONDARY

This policy was published :	Autumn
This Policy was ratified by the Board of Directors on	Autumn 2023
This Policy will be reviewed by the GLC Board on :	Autumn 2024

GLC Mission Statement

The GLC's mission is to develop active and thriving citizens within a diverse, truly fair and equal community.

This will be achieved through:

- High quality teaching that deliberately develops competencies of curiosity, creativity, communication and critical-thinking;
- An inspiring and meaningful curriculum;
- The development of productive relationships by instilling the values of compassion, resilience, responsibility and aspiration to prepare our young people for learning and life;
- A commitment to the wellbeing of our staff;
- A culture of professional generosity, collaboration, challenge and support throughout the GLC;
- The development of effective external partnerships for the benefit and wellbeing of our community.

Equalities Statement

The GLC's commitment to equality is enshrined in our mission statement to develop 'active and thriving citizens within a diverse, truly fair and equal community'.

We are a vibrant, innovative and successful organisation: we work hard to be the place of choice to work and to learn. Across the 5 academies of the GLC, we pledge that everyone enjoys an equality of opportunity. We work tirelessly to ensure that individual characteristics including age, ethnicity, socio-economic background, academic ability, disability, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation are not discriminated against in any way. We create inclusive environments characterised by mutual respect where difference is celebrated.

GLC Special Educational Needs and Disabilities [SEND] Policy

Contents

1. Introduction
2. GLC Guiding Vision, Values and Aims for SEND and Equality
3. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE
4. Definition and Identification of SEND
5. Graduated SEND Support
6. Education, Health and Care (EHCP) Plans
7. Monitoring and Evaluation
8. Roles and Responsibilities
9. Partnerships
10. Resource Allocation
11. Admissions
12. Communication
13. Evaluation of SEND Provision
14. Complaints
15. Appendix and Supporting Documents and link to SEND Information Report (with description, include staff and expertise in the academies)

The Gateway Academy SEND Policy:

1. Introduction

1.1 This policy sets out our vision for how The Gateway works to support, advise, challenge and intervene so that the best outcomes can be realised for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

1.2 We follow a continual cycle of self-reflection, adaptation and improvement, in order that the leadership of SEND can focus on raising standards for all children and young people with SEND. The SEND information report outlines how our vision, aims and objectives of this policy are implemented in our academies.

1.3 The policy complies with section 19 of the Children and Families Acts, 2014, and is written with reference to inclusive education and legislation. It is fully compliant with the *Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years [September 2014, updated January 2015]*, and should be read in conjunction with statutory guidance, as detailed in section 3.

2. GLC Guiding Vision, Values and Aims for SEND and Equality

2.1 All children and young people at the GLC are entitled to support for their learning to enable them to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding to reach their full potential. Our expectations for students with special educational needs or disabilities [SEND] are the same as for all students; they deserve the right to an outstanding education. The progress, development and outcomes for students with SEND are therefore integral to the GLC's development:

GLC Mission Statement

The GLC's mission is to develop active and thriving citizens within a diverse, truly fair and equal community.

This will be achieved through:

- High quality teaching that deliberately develops competencies of curiosity, creativity, communication and critical-thinking;
- An inspiring and meaningful curriculum;
- The development of productive relationships by instilling the values of compassion, resilience, responsibility and aspiration to prepare our young people for learning and life;
- A commitment to the wellbeing of our staff;
- A culture of professional generosity, collaboration, challenge and support throughout the GLC;
- The development of effective external partnerships for the benefit and wellbeing of our community.

Equalities Statement

The GLC's commitment to equality is enshrined in our mission statement to develop 'active and thriving citizens within a diverse, truly fair and equal community'.

We are a vibrant, innovative and successful organisation: we work hard to be the place of choice to work and to learn. Across the 5 academies of the GLC, we pledge that everyone enjoys an equality of opportunity. We work tirelessly to ensure that individual characteristics including age, ethnicity, socio-economic background, academic ability, disability, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation are not discriminated against in any way. We create inclusive environments characterised by mutual respect where difference is celebrated

Equalities Objectives:

To achieve this, our equality objectives include the following:

- To tackle all types and aspects of prejudice;
- To provide equal access to all aspects of the GLC's educational provision be it in, or outside the classroom;
- To narrow any attainment gaps between groups of pupils [particularly disadvantaged pupils];
- To allow equal access to information to all parents;
- To ensure each GLC Academy is as accessible as possible to all pupils, staff and visitors;
- To promote all young people's social, moral, cultural and spiritual development through a range of experiences.

2.2 Principles for all students with SEND in The GLC:

- they are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum that is intended to meet their individual learning needs;
- they are entitled to access the curriculum, in line with our policies and adapted as required;
- identification of, and provision to meet, their needs will be supported by timely and honest dialogue with students, parents and professionals
- will have their different needs met effectively, whilst promoting disability equality and accessibility;
- The GLC will anticipate and make reasonable adjustments to ensure that provisions and aids are in place so that students with disabilities are not placed at a disadvantage;
- The GLC works closely with and supports Thurrock Local Authority [LA] to assist them in fulfilling their obligations to our students and families;
- The voice of the student must inform the development of effective support.

3. Legislation and Guidance

This is based on the statutory Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice and the following legislation:

- Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which sets out schools' responsibilities for students 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 the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's 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 having a disability) and those who don't share it
- The Governance Handbook, which sets out governors'/trustees' responsibilities for students with SEND
- The School Admissions Code, which sets out the school's obligation to admit all students whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and its duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special educational needs
- The GLC will carefully consider all consultations for admittance of a pupil with an EHCP. However, if the EHCP indicates that placement in one of our academies is either unsuitable for the child or incompatible with the efficient education of others or the efficient use of resources, The GLC reserves it's right to provide this evidence to the local authority to appeal against the admission.

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

4. Definition and Identification of SEND

In line with the Code of Practice, the GLC defines special educational needs & disabilities where a student has one or more of the following:

- a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age;
- a disability that limits or prevents their access to teaching, learning and wider academy life;
- significant social and emotional barriers to learning.

4.1 Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for other children of that age. High quality inclusive teaching, adapted and scaffolded strategically for students, is always the first step in responding to the needs of students who may have SEND. Please see the infographic below that details what high-quality inclusive teaching and learning encompasses in The GLC:



4.2 Students are considered to have a disability if they have 'a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal daily activities' (SEND Code of Practice, 2015). The GLC abides by our duty to cater for the needs of students with disabilities, through making reasonable adjustments and arrangements to cater for medical, sensory or physical conditions. We recognise that disabilities take many forms, both hidden and visible, and are committed to identifying the disadvantages the disability causes and removing any barriers to learning or involvement in academy life.

4.3 The needs of students with SEND are grouped into 4 broad areas. Students may have needs that cut across more than 1 area, and their needs may change over time. The purpose of identification is to assess what a pupil's particular barriers to learning are, and therefore what is needed to support them, and not to fit a pupil into a category. The barriers to learning are then used to make plans, advise on strategies and review progress.

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	<p>Students 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 do not understand or use the social rules of communication.</p> <p>Students who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.</p>
Cognition and learning	<p>Students with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers.</p> <p>A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 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 students are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment
Social, emotional and mental health	<p>These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Students may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 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 <p>These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.</p>

Sensory and/or physical	<p>Students with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided.</p> <p>Students may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment · A physical impairment <p>These students may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.</p>
-------------------------	--

4.4 The GLC recognises that students learn at different rates, and many may experience difficulties at some point in their education. There are additional factors that can influence a student's learning, wellbeing and attainment that do not necessarily mean that there is a special educational need or disability. For some children, SEND can be identified at an early age, whereas for other children difficulties may become evident only as they develop. The holistic approach that the Gateway Academy adopts is therefore vital in identifying and determining levels of need, with analysis of the causal factors relating to that need.

4.5 The identification of SEND is built into the overall approach of monitoring the progress and development of all students. Teachers in the GLC use continuous formative assessment and agreed pedagogical approaches to ensure that any difficulties are identified early, with teaching and learning adapted 'in the moment' and effective feedback given. Summative assessment is also structured throughout the year (and on entry for new students) to ensure that progress and attainment are carefully monitored. The SEND Information Report provides further detail regarding how early identification and assessment of progress is part of our whole school approach.

4.6 If a student is joining the school, and:

- Their previous setting has already identified that they have SEND;
- 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 gather relevant information, so support can be put in place as early as possible.

4.7 The Gateway works closely with other professionals to secure needed services for our students and seek advice when a student is making less than expected progress, despite tailored support being put into place. These include but are not limited to:

- speech and language therapy;
- physiotherapy;
- educational psychology;
- local schools, including those with special status;

- occupational therapy;
- mental health services;
- counselling & therapies;
- school nurse, specialist nursing and health teams;
- other health and social care professionals.

5. Graduated SEND Support

5.1 Once a pupil has been identified as having SEND they are placed on the school's SEND register and parents/carers are informed. Action is taken to reduce 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. Teachers remain responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all students in their class. The GLC believes that all staff are integral to supporting our learners with SEND so that the highest outcomes can be achieved. The ethos is that whole school SEND provision is the responsibility of all, this is encapsulated by the phrase in the Code of Practice (2014):

'every teacher is a teacher of students with SEND'.

and therefore *'every leader is a leader of students with SEND.'*

A student will be removed from the SEND register if they do not have a diagnosis and are progressing in line with their peers nationally, without the need for personalisation or intervention from the SEND or inclusion teams.

5.2 The Gateway follows the graduated approach to a student's special educational needs with four stages of action: assess, plan, do and review. This cycle of support means that earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the student's needs and what supports them to make good progress.

Graduated approach	
1. Assess	The SEND team, in collaboration with teachers and pastoral staff, analyses the student's needs. The views of the student and their parents/carers will be taken into account. The school may also seek advice from external support services.
2. Plan	Key staff decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review. Parents/carers will be fully aware of the planned support and interventions, and may be asked to reinforce or contribute to progress at home. Student views will be sought.
3. Do	The student's teachers retain overall responsibility for their progress in each subject area.

	<p>Where the plan involves group, key worker support or focused teaching away from the main class teacher, they still retain responsibility for the student. They will work closely with any learning support assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.</p> <p>The SENDCo will support the teacher in further assessing the student's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on how to implement support effectively.</p>
4. Review	<p>The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the student's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.</p> <p>The impact and quality of the support and interventions will be evaluated. The SEND team, working with teachers and pastoral teams, will revise the outcomes and support in light of the student's progress and development, and in consultation with the student and their parents/carers.</p>

5.3 At the Gateway Academy, the SEND team, faculties and wider inclusion team work in collaboration to quickly identify underachievement and a range of additional needs. There are well-established processes and responsibilities so that appropriate support is put in place to remove barriers, help students 'catch up' and re-engage with their learning. The SEND and wider inclusion team is made up of:

- The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo)
- Assistant Headteacher for SEND and Inclusion
- Vice Principals for Student Development, and Ethos
- Progress Leaders
- Lead Coaches
- The student wellbeing team
- Learning Support Assistants (LSAs)

5.4 Before transition to The Gateway Academy in year 7, students with SEND and additional needs may be offered a bespoke programme of opportunities to visit and meet with staff and students, in response to their needs. All students attend The Gateway for a one-week transition in the summer term. Staff from across the GLC meet regularly throughout the year to work together and get to know students and what support they may need to make the successful transition to The Gateway.

5.5 The Gateway uses the edukey provision map to track provisions, strategies and reviews. The student passports detail what adaptations and additional support are in place, and whether outside agencies are involved. It identifies the student's strengths, as well as targets for development and teaching strategies to minimise any areas of difficulty. The SEND team

works alongside teachers and the wider inclusion team to revisit, review and refine the information stored in edukey; this allows us to continually evaluate its effectiveness.

Please see appendix 1 for further details on how The Gateway adopts the graduated approach of assess-plan-do-review.

5.6 The GLC employs rigorous systems of monitoring progress and evaluating teaching and learning. The graduated approach for SEND works in partnership with The Gateway Academy systems, through application of this we feel confident in identifying areas of need and securing the provision or additional support that is needed to meet the needs of individuals and groups of students.

5.7 At the Gateway Academy we make every effort to make adaptations to curriculum, teaching and the learning environment to meet the needs of individual students. Our curriculum structure allows for students to follow more personalised curricula that focuses on the students' specific needs and provision, where appropriate. This approach ensures that The Gateway's curriculum and pastoral offers for students with SEND are different to and/or additional from that already offered.

5.8 Exam access arrangements (EAA) are a provision or type of support that is given to students, dependent on their level and type of need, subject to approval from the exam board. They extend and reflect the support that is given to a student with SEND in the classroom, internal exams and mock exams. For further details about eligibility and the processes followed at The Gateway, please see the Exams Access Arrangements Policy.

5.9 For further information about the assess-plan-do-review cycle for SEND at the Gateway Academy please refer to the GLC SEND Information Report, found at <http://www.theglc.org.uk/>.

6. Education, Health and Care Plans [EHCP]

6.1 Students who need more support than is available through the schools' SEND provision may be entitled to an Education, Health and Care Plan [EHCP]. This is a legal document that describes a young person's special educational needs, the provision needed to achieve and the outcomes that success will be measured against. An EHCP can only be issued after a student has gone through the process of an EHCP needs assessment.

6.2 The Code of Practice states that *'the local authority should consider whether there is evidence that despite the..... school.....having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the special educational needs of the child or young person, the child or young person has not made expected progress'*.

6.3 The Gateway Academy would typically apply for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for students who, despite significant and appropriate interventions and provision, are not making expected progress. It is applied for in response to thorough assessments of a student's needs, skills and progress, working in partnership with parents and other agencies to determine whether an EHCP is required¹. Please see the GLC SEND Information Report for further details on the Gateway Academy's provisions to meet special educational needs.

6.4 The EHCP both specifies and quantifies what support is required to meet a child's special educational needs; this does not necessarily mean that this support will be delivered 1:1 by an additional adult. They also determine which services the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will commission to meet the health needs. The ultimate responsibility for ensuring provision is made rests with the LA. As a general guide, only young people in the highest 2% of complex needs will receive an EHCP. For further advice, please refer to the Thurrock website:

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/special-education-needs>

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

7.1 Combined with the graduated approach, leaders of SEND in the Gateway Academy follow cycles of monitoring and evaluation. We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for students with SEND by:

- analysing and interpreting data;
- sampling work;
- discussing learning, progress and attitudes with students and parents;
- identifying strengths and weaknesses in provision;
- raising awareness of special needs, and supporting all staff to develop their practice;
- moderating that targets set are challenging, achievable and related to increased progress;
- reviewing planning and assessments;
- carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEND Support;
- holding at-least annual reviews for students with EHCPs;
- observing classroom practice.

7.2 The actions above are completed in different fora at the Gateway Academy, such as:

- Faculty briefings, with a regular agenda item for SEND, attended by Heads of Faculty and the SENDCo/AHT
- ½ termly GLC Progress Board, with learning walks throughout the day followed by a meeting focused on achievement and progress data

¹ It should be noted that parents and other agencies may also request an EHCP, which would be binding on the GLC academy if approved

- Termly year group focused reviews through lesson observations, book scrutinies and conversations with students, followed up with updates on the electronic database and direct feedback to staff
- Team around the family (TAF) meetings
- Annual SEND assessments, including standardised tests of single word, language and maths skills
- Annual academy reviews
- Termly data drops
- Inclusion panels, both internal to the Gateway Academy and across The GLC
- Mentoring programmes

8. Roles and Responsibilities

8.1 The SENDCo will:

- be a qualified teacher, recognised by the DfE, in line with statutory requirements for SENDCos;
- Work with the headteacher, leadership, Trust Lead for SEND and Inclusion and governing board to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school;
- Form positive working relationships that encourage parents, carers and students to participate in decision making processes and to contribute to the assessment of needs, reviews and transition processes;
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual students with SEND, including those who have EHCP plans;
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to ensure that students with SEND receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching;
- Challenge and engage with teachers, initiate evidence led practice and influence pedagogy to secure improvements for students with SEND;
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEND support;
- Embed The GLC vision for SEND, as set out in the policy, information report and internal guidance;
- Implement strategies that secure high standards of provision for SEND, monitor the impact of these and adapt throughout the year;
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet students' needs effectively;
- Be the point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority and its support services;
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to ensure students and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned, including preparation for adulthood;
- Work with the headteacher, leadership, Trust Lead for SEND and Inclusion and governing board to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements;
- Ensure the school keeps the records of all students with SEND up to date;

- Oversee that staff have the appropriate training provided in order to implement what is set out in the policy, information report and internal GLC guidance;
- Support parents and carers in accessing appropriate support for their children;
- Compiling reports for governors;
- monitor and evaluate the achievement and attainment of students with SEND and demonstrate impact through the use of data.

8.2 Teachers and support staff

Teachers offer the best opportunities for all students with SEND in the GLC by:

- Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is adapted to meet pupil needs through a graduated approach (see appendix 1);
- Delivering appropriate curricula that will engage and challenge;
- Improving their practice by ensuring that they implement guidance on high quality teaching for students with SEND;
- Implementing effective teaching and learning strategies, that is appropriately differentiated and resourced for the students' needs;
- Working closely with any learning support 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 SENDCo and other leaders to review students' progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision;
- Ensuring that they follow this SEND Policy and the SEND Information Report;
- Using appropriate assessments to set targets that are realistic, challenging and motivating;
- Providing evidence of strategies being used to effect change;
- Providing supportive learning environments;
- Focusing on reading, writing, communication and maths skills [RWCM];
- Fostering good relationships and encourage a positive self-image.

The learning support assistants [LSAs] are key to supporting our students by:

- Delivering effective support, using the scaffold for learning to promote independence;
- Improving their practice by ensuring that they implement guidance on effective learner support
- Jointly planning and delivering individualised programmes where appropriate;
- Monitoring progress against targets using the SEND electronic database, curriculum objectives and EHCPs;
- Assisting in drawing up recommended strategies and assessing for special educational needs;
- Contributing to review processes;
- Working with small groups, within or out of the classroom, under the direction of the teacher;
- Supporting with visits;

- Planning with or adapting teacher plans;
- Mentoring selected students, meeting with them and their parents/carers and advocating for that student with the Gateway Academy staff.

Please see appendix 2 for details of the responsibilities staff hold in adopting a graduated approach to SEND.

8.3 Trust Lead for SEND and Inclusion

The Trust Lead for SEND and Inclusion supports the development of SEND best practice in all academies. This is achieved through developing capacity of academy based SENDCos and challenging academies in terms of their provision and data. SEND policy and practice has been aligned, facilitated by a shared vision and regular opportunities for all to benefit from sharing best practice. The Trust Lead for SEND and Inclusion reports to the GLC Board of Directors through the Deputy CEO. Specific responsibilities of the Trust Lead for SEND and Inclusion include:

- SEND development plans, structures and reviews;
- advice and support for identification and intervention;
- reviewing progress, challenging all in their expectations of and provision for students with SEND;
- keeping well-informed in current research and best practice to affect teaching and learning for SEND;
- leading and supporting staff training in SEND;
- developing capacity and sustainability through SEND action group meetings;
- conducting specialist assessments;
- preparing for LA and Ofsted visits, and compiling reports;
- monitoring the effectiveness and appropriateness of the SEND policy and its implementation;
- partnership working;
- and commissioning additional services.

8.4 Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher

The headteacher and Assistant Headteacher (SEND) will:

- Work with the SENDCo and Trust Lead for SEND and Inclusion to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision at the Gateway Academy;
- Have overall responsibility for the provision and progress of learners with SEND

8.5 The SEND governor

The SEND governor will:

- Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at progress board meetings
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEN and disability provision within the school and update the governing board on this;

- Work with the headteacher and SENDCo to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school.

8.6 The GLC Board of Directors

It is the role of the GLC Board of Directors to ensure that the GLC's Policy complies with current legislation and is maintained in line current legislation as required. The Board ensures that all academies comply with the agreed policy and monitors provision and outcomes for young people with SEND.

- The Board and local governing bodies are responsible for ensuring each Academy within the GLC implements the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy;
- This policy will operate alongside equalities, inclusion and access policy and practice.

8.7 Students

Students are encouraged to take an active role in decision making and planning for their future; at the Gateway Academy we feel it important that students know they will be listened to and that their views are valued. Students are requested to attend parents' evening, mentoring sessions and annual reviews where appropriate. Their views are captured in preparing for annual reviews and any requests for additional support from external agencies.

During transition students complete a one-page profile, this gives them the opportunity to reflect and share what they find difficult, what works well for them and what's important to them. When a student has an EHCP or more personalised provision, an 'all about me' is completed to support the assessment and review process.

8.8 Parents and carers

We actively seek to work with parents and /or carers and value the contributions they make. The GLC has set out a Partnership Plan to welcome visitors to our academies, and to ensure that student's needs are central to all discussions. Parents / carers are encouraged to be fully involved with:

- Offering and including their views within all statutory paperwork and procedures;
- Engaging fully with parents' evenings, mentoring and annual reviews;
- Regular and effective communication between home and the academy, which may include planners, communication logs, telephone calls and meetings, where both home & academy share pertinent information;
- Supporting their child / children with their learning and additional needs, as discussed in reviews;
- Attending academy events;
- Discussing their child's / children's day with them, including what rewards they may have received and what they did that was new or interesting;

- Sharing key information with the academy that may affect their child;
- Completing an annual questionnaire to reflect on the progress and support of their child and give their views on what else could be achieved and how.

9. Partnerships

9.1 In the GLC academies students and parents/carers are part of the team that specifies provision and monitoring the effectiveness of that provision, please see appendix 4. Please see the GLC SEND Information Report for further details, available on our academy websites.

9.2 A UK network of Information, Advice and Support Services [IASS] is available for disabled children and young people, those with special educational needs and their families. Thurrock also provides a Parent Advisory Team Thurrock [PATT] to give information and advice to parents and carers of students with SEND. For further information please see:

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/support-for-parents-and-carers-whose-children-have-special-needs-at-school/information-advice-and>

Thurrock Local Authority [LA]

9.3 The Code of Practice places legal duties on Local Authorities [LAs] to identify and assess the special educational needs and disabilities [SEND] of students for whom they are responsible. An LA must carry out an EHCP needs assessment if a student's needs, or probably needs, more support than their school or other setting can give them.

8.4 Once special educational provision has been specified in an EHCP plan, the LA has a legal duty to provide it. The provision that an LA provides is set out in a Local Offer to detail all the services and support that are available children and young people with SEND. Thurrock has published theirs on the website below:

<http://www.askthurrock.org.uk/kb5/thurrock/fis/localoffer.page>

10. Resource Allocation

10.1 It is the responsibility of each academy to make sure that a budget allocation is made to SEND that meets the needs of the targeted young people. They will also ensure that additional funds allocated through high needs funding or EHCPs are targeted and used appropriately.

11. Admissions

11.1 The GLC Academies follow all national and local guidance and legislation in the admission of students with SEND, both with or without a statutory assessment (EHCP plan). The policy and guidelines for admissions of all young people is outlined in the Admissions

Policy for The Gateway academy.

11.2 Prior to admission of a student with SEND, The Gateway reserve the right within current legislation to defer admission for up to four weeks whilst reasonable adaptations are made. Please see the Admissions Policy for The Gateway for further details:

<http://www.theglc.org.uk/170/key-information>

12. Communication

12.1 We strive to maintain strong communication links within the GLC:

- The SEND Co-ordinator meets regularly with teachers and support staff to discuss the progress of students with SEND in relation to agreed targets;
- The SEND team review students' provision and the impact of strategies in the classroom, feeding back to class teachers and updating the SEND electronic database;
- The Graduated Approach and the SEND electronic database are updated regularly, and distributed to all staff members electronically. This is monitored by the named governor to ensure compliance;
- A Group SEND Information Report is held on the GLC website, detailing what support and provision is offered in the academies;
- Each academy holds an appendix to the GLC SEND Information Report that provides further detail about what they offer that is additional to our core GLC provision.

13. Evaluation of SEND Provision

13.1 The culture of the GLC is to promote reflection and professional challenge; as such evaluation is ongoing and collaborative. SEND teaching and learning reviews [T & L reviews] are combined within faculty review meetings at the Gateway Academy; these include observations, learning walks, book scrutinies and discussions to ensure that high quality teaching and learning occurs for students with SEND. We use an adaptation of the foci recommended by Whole School SEND to evaluate and monitor the working of the SEND policy, these are:

- Leadership
- Outcomes for students
- Assessment and identification
- Monitoring, tracking and evaluation
- The quality of provision, teaching and learning
- Working with students and parents/carers of students with SEND

13.2 It is the responsibility of the Trust Lead for SEND and Inclusion to collate and deliver

SEND reports and to use these to support the Gateway Academy in ensuring that all students with SEND make good or better progress.

14. Complaints

14.1 The GLC believes that the Special Educational Needs of students are best met when there is effective collaboration and communications between the Academy, other agencies, families and young people. We aim to foster good working relations with all of these groups.

14.2 Procedures at the GLC:

- There are opportunities throughout the year for parent/family consultation. Parents are requested to make an appointment with their child's class or form teacher if a problem arises.
- If a satisfactory outcome is not achieved then a meeting is arranged between the parent, teacher and the SENDCo;
- The complaint then escalates to the Assistant Headteacher for SEND, in consultation with the Trust Lead for SEND and Inclusion;
- In some cases it may be necessary to involve the Head of School;
- If still no solution is found parents are advised to make a formal complaint using the GLC's complaints procedure.

Supporting Documentation and Appendixes

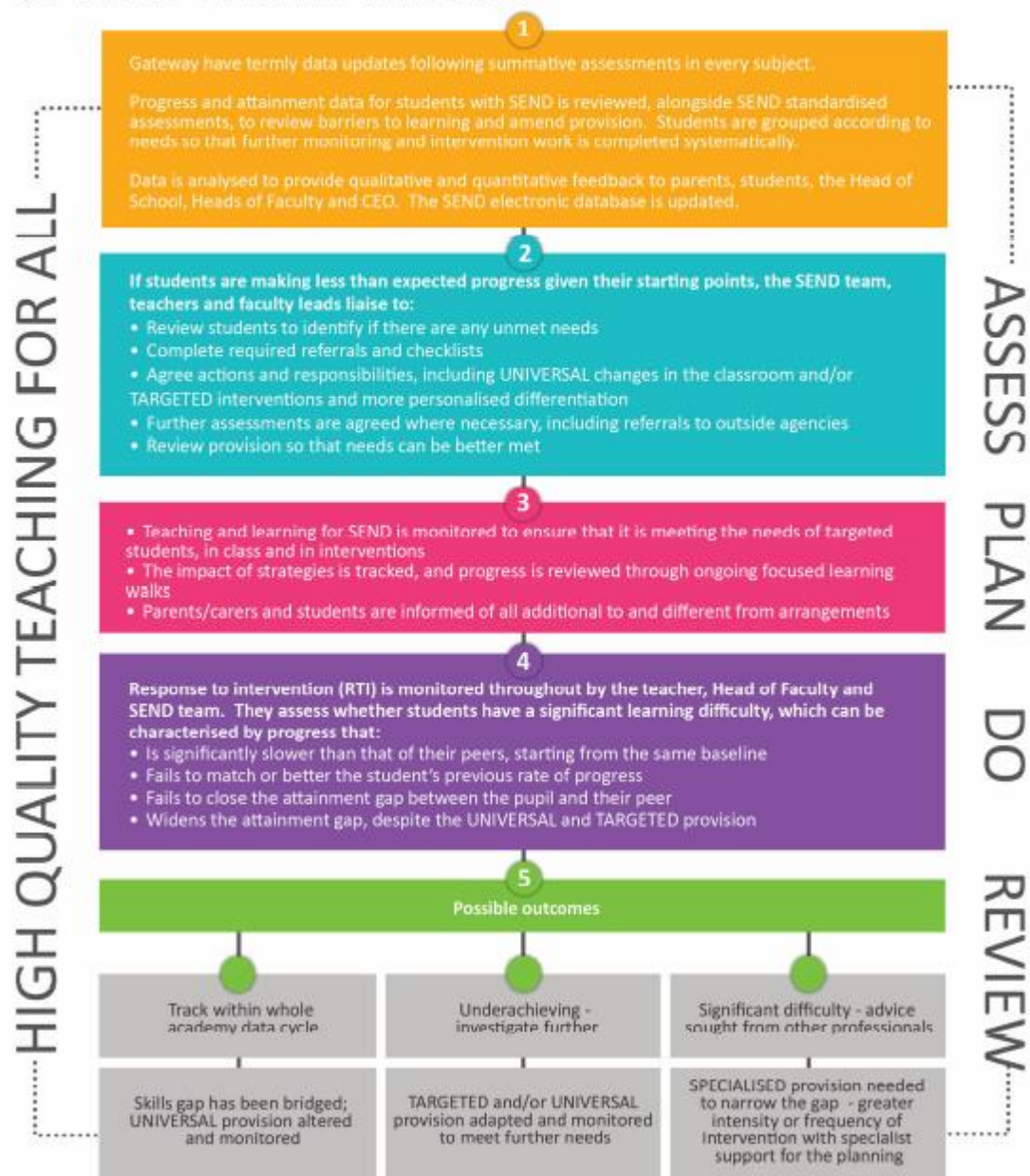
Appendix 1



GLC

The Gateway Learning Community Trust

THE IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF SEND WITHIN THE GLC



T DEVELOPING YOURSELF
& DEVELOPING OTHERS
L DEVELOPING THE TEAM

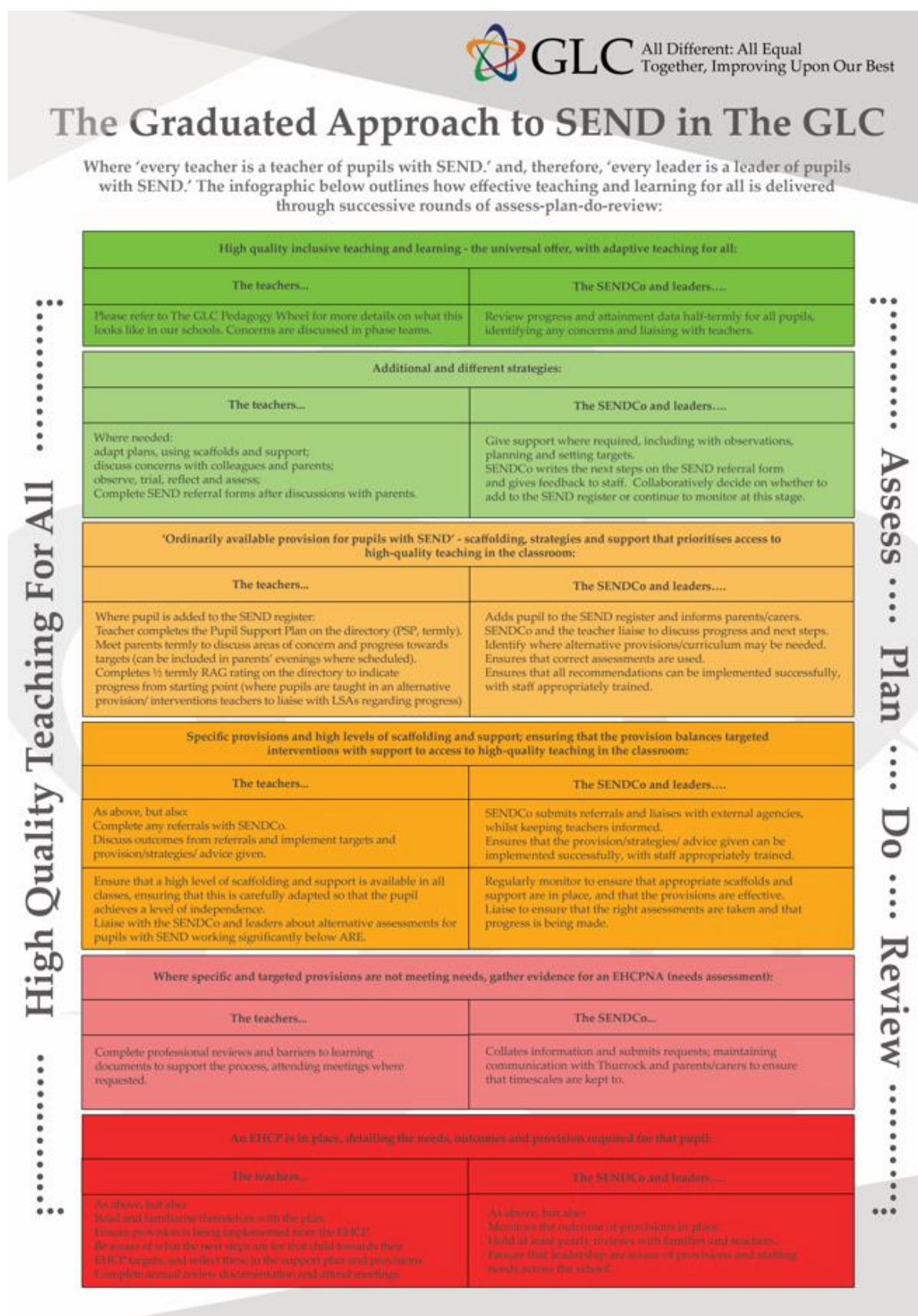
High Quality, Inclusive Teaching & Learning- The GLC Approach



Please also refer to The GLC Pedagogy Wheel:



Approach is modified using recommendations from the EEF (2022) 'Five-a-day' to improve SEND outcomes, with additions from research into best practice for SEND. The approach for SEND compliments that of whole school pedagogical advice and strategies.



Appendix 2

Stages of SEND Support – The Graduated Approach

As recommended in the SEND Code of Practice [2014], the GLC adopts a graduated approach in provision to meet young people's needs:

Stage 1: UNIVERSAL APPROACH	High quality teaching and learning	Responsibility of the class / subject teacher and faculty lead, supported by SEND team
Stage 2: TARGETED APPROACH	In addition to high quality teaching, provision to target skills gaps or other defined needs.	Responsibility of the class / subject teacher, faculty lead, and identified intervention staff, supported and monitored by SEND team
Stage 3: SPECIALISED APPROACH	Increasingly more intensive or longer term interventions.	As above, with increasingly more involvement of the SEND team and including appropriate commissioned services



SPECIAL
EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS &
DISABILITIES

PARTNERSHIP PLAN

We welcome you to our academy, during your visit we will endeavour to:

- Begin every meeting with introductions, and agree a timeframe and purpose;
- Keep your child's / children's needs as the central focus to our work;
- Ensure that difficulties are acknowledged but that we move forward with a 'no blame' agenda;
- Work towards finding solutions and securing the best outcomes together;
- Agree to a clear action plan that is shared by all and shows the contribution needed from everyone.

***By working together we strive to fulfil the GLC mission of:
developing effective partnerships for the benefit and wellbeing of our community.***

please also refer to the 'Working in partnership to raise standards' information that is displayed in our reception areas.

www.theglc.org.uk



Appendix 4

Partnership agreement



**SPECIAL
EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS &
DISABILITIES**

PARTNERSHIP PLAN

We welcome you to our academy, during your visit we will endeavour to:

- Begin every meeting with introductions, and agree a timeframe and purpose;
- Keep your child's / children's needs as the central focus to our work;
- Ensure that difficulties are acknowledged but that we move forward with a 'no blame' agenda;
- Work towards finding solutions and securing the best outcomes together;
- Agree to a clear action plan that is shared by all and shows the contribution needed from everyone.

***By working together we strive to fulfil the GLC mission of:
developing effective partnerships for the benefit and wellbeing of our community.***

please also refer to the 'Working in partnership to raise standards' information that is displayed in our reception areas.

www.theglc.org.uk



**The
Gateway**
Learning Community Trust