

SEND Policy (DRAFT)

2025/2026

PARTNERSHIPS | OPPORTUNITY | INTEGRITY | EQUITY | EXCELLENCE | PEOPLE-CENTRED

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**Moorside
High School**
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

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Aims

Our SEN policy and information report aims to:

- Set out how our school will support and make provision for students with special educational needs (SEN).
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for students with SEN.
- Show how our school will provide a safe and happy environment in which all students have the opportunity to develop as an individual.
- Provide information about how our curriculum will meet the needs of students with additional needs.
- Ensure full entitlement and access for SEN students to high quality education within a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, including access to the National Curriculum and public examinations, so that they can reach their full potential.
- Educate students with Special Educational Needs, in whatever way possible, alongside their peers within the normal curriculum of the school, and to provide pastoral and learning opportunities beyond those offered to mainstream students and meeting the individual needs of the SEN students.
- Enhance self-esteem and to foster a joy in learning.

Moorside High School values the contribution of all its parents, carers, students and staff to create the inclusive, supportive learning environment we aim to provide. We are ambitious and have high expectations that all students will have the opportunity to reach their learning potential during their time spent in our school. To this aim all staff have responsibility for teaching students with different learning needs (including SEN) and are expected to provide for them appropriately to meet those needs.

We encourage students to be actively engaged in their education and we recognise the importance of home support. We aim to work closely with parents and carers to be mutually supportive of our young people. We hope to provide students opportunities to achieve learning potential through a range of curriculum offers and raise their future aspirations.

Legislation and guidance

This policy and information report 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 SEN and disabilities.
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN co-ordinators (SENDCOs) and the SEN information report.

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

Definitions

A student has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which 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 the majority of 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.

Roles and responsibilities

The SENCo – they will:

- Work with the headteacher, SEN governor and Director of Education (Consilium Academies) to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the school.
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEN policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual students with SEN, including those who have EHC plans.
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to ensure that students with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching.
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support.
- 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.
- Work with the headteacher 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 SEN up to date.

The Headteacher – they will:

- Work with the SENDCo, SEN governor and Director of Education (Consilium Academies) to determine the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the school.
- Have overall responsibility for the provision and progress of learners with SEN and/or a disability.

The Deputy SENCo – they will:

- Support the SENCo with the day-to-day and strategic direction of the SEND provision in school.
- Specifically, their role is to lead transition and support for students who are part of the Enhance Resource Provision.

The SEN (LAB) Member – they will:

- Help to raise awareness of SEN issues at Local Academy 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, SENDCo and Director of Education (Consilium Academies) to review the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision in the school.

Class Teachers – are responsible for:

- 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 how they can be linked to classroom teaching.
- Working with the SENCO to review each student's progress and development and decide on any changes to provision.
- Ensuring they follow this SEN policy.

SEN admissions arrangements

School's admissions policy for special educational needs (SEND) mirrors the standard admissions process, but with specific considerations for children with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. For children with an EHC plan, the plan will specify the appropriate school placement, and parents don't need to complete a separate school application form. If a child does not have an EHC plan, the standard application process for their relevant school year applies, and the council will consider the child's needs during the allocation process.

Children with EHC plans have their school placement determined by the plan itself, and the local authority should adhere to this. For children without EHC plans, the standard application process for their relevant school year applies, and the council will consider their needs during the allocation process. Schools cannot refuse a child a place solely because they have special educational needs. The Fair Access Protocol may apply to children facing challenges in securing a school place, including those with SEN. Parents have the right to appeal if their child is refused a place at their preferred school, including those with SEN. For specific queries about SEND admissions, contact the Salford City Council's Admissions and Exclusions Team.

SEN information report

Our school community currently provides additional and/or different provision for a range of needs, including:

- Communication and interaction, for example, autistic spectrum condition, speech and language difficulties.
- Cognition and learning, for example, dyslexia, dyspraxia, reading difficulties, processing difficulties.
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties, for example, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), ADD, ODD.
- Sensory and/or physical needs, for example, visual impairments, hearing impairments, epilepsy.

Identifying students with SEN and assessing their needs.

We will assess each student's current skills and levels of attainment on entry, which will build on previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. Class teachers will make regular assessments of progress for all students and identify those whose progress:

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

This may include progress in areas other than attainment, for example, social needs.

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

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

Before determining the need for Special Educational Needs Support further assessment will be carried out to ensure the right support is given. This assessment will include, but not be limited to, reading, comprehension, spelling, memory and processing, and numeracy. Specifically, the following criterion are applied to assessment outcomes before SEND support/intervention is considered:

- Reading standard score of below 85 using the Diagnostic Reading Analysis.
- Comprehension standard score below 85 using the Diagnostic Reading Analysis.
- Spelling standard score below 85 using the Vernon spelling assessment.
- Maths standard score below 85 using the MaLT assessment.
- Working memory score below 85 using the Lucid Recall assessment.
- Processing speed score below 85 using the Lucid Recall assessment.

Other specific assessments can be carried out if deemed necessary by the SENCO or Learning Support Team. These assessments may include pupil observation, discussion with teachers or can be carried out by professionals from other agencies with parental permission.

All interventions carried out by the Learning Support Department are assessed using pre and post standardised assessment methods. Additionally, the SENCO analyses data from subject staff in regard to progress, behaviour and effort to assess if interventions have had an impact in these areas.

Consulting and involving students and parents.

The Department has an “open door” philosophy towards parents. Informally, parents are encouraged to contact the SENCO whenever they wish and parents contact, and are contacted by, learning support staff to celebrate achievement as well as raising concerns.

Formally:

- The SENCo and/or appropriate SEN teaching staff are available at all annual parents’ evenings and can be seen, with or without, appointment.
- All students who receive SEN Support have a formal review every year (at parents’ evenings where possible) to discuss targets, and students with an Education, Health and Care Plan, an “Annual review”, to review progress towards outcomes.
- Parents are invited to all reviews and are also invited to make written comment before reviews.
- Copies of a student’s Inclusion Profile are sent to parents and we encourage parents to comment upon and make changes to the document at each revision.
- Learning support staff are present at Open Evenings.
- Through our transition arrangements from Primary School, a rapport with parents is often established before students enter the school in Year 7. An enhanced transition programme is in place for SEND students where advised or appropriate.
- Regular Coffee Club meetings are held with parents and other professionals to allow for the communication of how parents can support their child as well as allow parents to raise concerns or suggestions in a public forum.

We will have an early discussion with the pupil and their parents when identifying whether they need special educational provision. These conversations will make sure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the student’s areas of strength and difficulty.
- We take into account the parents’ concerns.
- 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 student’s record and given to parents.

We will formally notify parents when it is decided that a pupil will receive SEN support.

Students who have a SEND are allocated a key worker on entry to the school. This keyworker meets with the pupil formally every half term to discuss targets for the next half term.

Every term, students are given an opportunity to update their Inclusion Profile to ensure they still agree with its contents.

Students are given support in preparation for Reviews of SEND and reviews are generally conducted in a Person Centered way to ensure that the pupil has the loudest voice in any decisions made.

Assessing and reviewing students’ progress towards outcomes.

We will follow the graduated approach and the four-part cycle of **assess, plan, do, review**.

Subject teachers will work with the SENDCo to carry out a clear analysis of the student’s needs. This will draw on:

- The teacher’s assessment and experience of the pupil.
- Their previous progress, attainment and behaviour.
- Other teachers’ assessments, where relevant.
- The individual’s development in comparison to their peers and national data.
- The views and experience of parents.
- The student’s own views.
- Advice from external support services, if relevant.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly.

All teachers and support staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of their needs (communicated through our Inclusion Profile document), the outcomes sought, the support provided, and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required. We will regularly review the effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the student's progress.

Supporting students moving from phases and preparing for adulthood.

We will share information with the school, college, or other setting the pupil is moving to. We will agree with parents and students which information will be shared as part of this.

For all students with SEN there are specific systems in place for the successful transition from other schools. With year 6-7 transitions the ideal is for information gathering to begin in the March of year 6. On many occasions, for example if the pupil has an EHC plan/statement, this process can begin much earlier.

Students with SEND are given access to our 'Enhanced Transition' programme which is built around personalised need and is devised in conjunction with parents/carers, primary schools, agencies and with the student's needs at its centre.

Students with SEND are allocated a Keyworker in time for the 'induction day' to ensure that they have a named member of Learning Support before they start.

Parents of students with SEND are given clear lines of communication throughout the transition process and they are encouraged to contact the SENDCo with any concerns or questions.

Preparing of Adulthood and transition to Further Education is an important part of our processes in school. There is a designated member of the Learning Support Team whose role is to liaise with Connexions services and Colleges of Further Education to ensure transition is smooth and that the correct courses and placements are secured. Processes begin in year 9 with discussions about options and curriculum. This is completed with the pupil, parent/carer and school staff.

For students where there are difficulties with life skills and independent living, interventions are put in place (see intervention section) to aid students to gain the skills required for their future life. Many life skills issues are addressed through joined-up working with agencies and parents/carers and are devised on an individual basis.

For identified students additional transition arrangements are in place to ensure a smooth move between school and receiving colleges. This program involves additional visits to colleges as well as the sharing of information with colleges to ensure that support continues into year 12.

Our approach to teaching students with SEN.

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all the students in their class.

High quality teaching is our first step in responding to students who have SEN. This will be scaffolded for individual students to ensure they are able to meet the expectations and challenges of our curriculum.

We will also provide the following interventions:

Literacy

- Literacy basics
- Spelling
- Reading
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension
- Phonics
- Entry Level English

Numeracy

- Numeracy basics
- Pre and post-teaching maths
- Entry Level maths

- Organisation and memory skills

Communication and Interaction Needs

- Social stories
- Talking partners
- Oral presentation skills
- Lego therapy
- Art Therapy
- Comic Strip conversations

Social, Emotional and Mental Health

- Social skills
- Friendship groups
- Nurture group
- Anger management
- Support from a keyworker
- Mindfulness

Other intervention will be determined, with external support where necessary, as required.

Adaptations to the curriculum and learning environment.

We make the following adaptations to ensure all students' needs are met:

- Differentiating our curriculum to ensure all students are able to access it, for example, by grouping, 1:1 work, teaching style, content of the lesson, etc.
- Adapting our resources and staffing.
- Using recommended aids, such as laptops, coloured overlays, visual timetables, larger font, etc.
- Scaffolding our teaching, for example, giving longer processing times, pre-teaching of key vocabulary, reading instructions aloud, etc.
- A small number of students may be withdrawn from Modern Foreign Languages in Key Stage 3. These students are selected based upon their performance in the Key Stage 2 SATs initially, but further assessment may highlight other students. These students follow a curriculum based upon a combination of the above interventions. All decisions regarding this withdrawal are reached in consultation with parents, primary schools, the pupil and any external agencies that may be involved.
- As students enter KS4 support is offered to students, with parents, to determine the pathways that are followed. Sometimes a decision is reached that a pupil will join our Curriculum Group which allows for the teaching of Entry Level English and Maths as well as giving students the opportunity to catch-up on any classwork or homework in a supported and structured manner.

Additional support for learning.

We have a number of Teaching Assistants at various levels of responsibility - there are:

- Level 2 Classroom Support Assistants whose responsibility is to support students during curriculum lessons. This support is determined by the SENCO and is underpinned by EHC Plans. Classroom Support TAs do not sit with students, instead they help to build skills to help students become independent in their learning. As such 1-1 support is a rarity. Level 2 TAs also act as keyworkers to select students.
- Level 3 Teaching Assistants who are trained to deliver some interventions as well as providing some classroom support as described above. Level 3 TAs also act as keyworkers to select students.
- Level 4 Teaching Assistants who teach interventions to named students full time in either 1-1 or small group sessions. Level 4 TAs act as keyworkers, primarily to students with Education, Health and Care Plans.

We work with the following agencies to provide support for students with SEN:

- Behaviour Support Services
- Educational Psychology

- Learning Support Services
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health service (CAMHS)
- Sensory Support Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Various Medical Services when required

Expertise and training staff.

Our SENCo has 17 years' experience in this role and has worked as a special needs teacher for 13 years. Our SENCo previously held the post of SENCo and Assistant Headteacher in a local authority SEMH school in Lancashire and has a vast knowledge and experience of support students with complex needs. The SENCo has a Post- Graduate qualification in SEN Co-ordination.

We have a team of 15 teaching assistants, including 5 higher level teaching assistants (HLTAs) who are trained to deliver SEN provision.

Securing equipment and facilities.

Learning Support comprises of several rooms ranging in size to facilitate differing group sizes and 1-1 support. Equipment and resources are sourced via the school budget allocation and as required, dependent on budgetary constraints.

Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision.

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

- Reviewing students' individual progress towards their goals each term and/or after individual interventions.
- Reviewing the impact of interventions after a maximum of 8 weeks.
- Using pupil questionnaires.
- Monitoring by the SENCo.
- Using provision maps to measure progress.
- Holding annual reviews for students with EHC plans.
- The SENCo is a member of the school Senior Leadership Team and as such discussions around effectiveness are held regularly. The SENCO reports to the Head of School and they meet regularly.
- A full SEN report, Departmental Report and Action Plan, are presented to the governors for discussion annually.
- The Learning Support Department management team meet fortnightly to discuss effectiveness of provision and to review the SEN register.
- The SENCo and Deputy SENCo meet weekly to discuss effectiveness of provision and the strategic direction of the department.
- Formal and informal meetings between the SENCO, pastoral and subject staff, are arranged regularly.

Review and evaluation are an ongoing process, which shape the development of the department. The Department's Development Plan summarises developments is regularly updated in the light of new legislation and the effectiveness of provision.

In addition, to the objective and quantifiable measures listed above, an indicator of the effectiveness of the Learning Support Department is the existence of a clear and appropriate school ethos. An ethos in which individual differences are recognised and valued and all concerned with the students, especially parents, feel part of a team, working towards the development of confident, happy students who achieve their potential.

Enabling students with SEN to engage in activities available to those in the school who do not have SEN.

All of our extra-curricular activities and school visits are available to all our students, including our before-and after-school activities.

All students are encouraged to go on our residential trip(s) and reasonable modifications are made where possible.

All students are encouraged to take part in sports day/school plays/special workshops.

Students with SEND are encouraged to participate in Inclusive Sporting activities organised by the Local Authority, No pupil is ever excluded from taking part in these activities because of their SEN or disability.

Please see the School's Accessibility plan for further details.

Support for improving emotional and social development.

We provide support for students to improve their emotional and social development in the following ways:

- Students with SEN are encouraged to be part of the school council.
- Students with SEN are also encouraged to be part of the learning support lunch club to promote teamwork/building friendships etc.
- Students with SEN are included in extra-curricular activities.
- Students with SEN take part in student voice regularly throughout the year.

We have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying.

Working with other agencies.

We have a strong working relationship with a number of agencies from across the local area. Where a student needs additional specialist assessment or support then a referral to the relevant agency or the Early Help Process is initiated which fully includes parents and the student in an effort to identify the best service.

Where there are concerns about a child's welfare our school's safeguarding procedures are followed.

Complaints about SEN provision.

Concerns or complaints raised by parents are normally dealt with directly through telephone calls or interviews with the SENCo or other involved staff. Concerns that cannot be resolved in this way will follow a line of referral, involving the Headteacher, the Director of Education for Consilium Academies or the school's Governing Body.

Parents will be encouraged to engage the support of the Inclusion Advisory Service at all levels of the complaints' procedure. Their contact details are below.

The parents of students with disabilities have the right to make disability discrimination claims to the first-tier SEND tribunal if they believe that our school has discriminated against their children. They can make a claim about alleged discrimination regarding:

- Suspensions
- Provision of education and associated services
- Making reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services

Contact details of support for parents of students with SEN.

Contact SIASS (Salford Information, Advice and Support Service) on email siass@salford.gov.uk

SIASS is available Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 4:30pm (except Bank holidays). They will aim to get back to you within 2- 3 working days.

Contact details for raising concerns.

Mrs Lucy O'Kane, SENDCo – mhsSENDCo@consilium-at.com

Mrs H Ryles-Dean, Headteacher – mhsinfo@consilium-at.com

The local authority offer.

Our local authority's local offer is published here:

<https://directory.salford.gov.uk/kb5/salford/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>

Or search Local Offer Salford.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy and information report will be reviewed every year. It will also be updated if any changes to the information are made during the year.

It will be approved by the governing board.

Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to our policies on:

- Accessibility plan
- Behaviour
- Equality information and objectives
- Supporting students with medical conditions