

**The Robinswood Academy Trust**

**INCLUSION POLICY**

**Incorporating  
Special Educational Needs Information Report**



Statutory Instrument: Special Educational Needs (Information) Regulations  
(Clause 65)  
and  
Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2014)

## INCLUSION POLICY FOR THE ROBINSWOOD ACADEMY TRUST

### Legislative Compliance

This policy complies with the guidance given in **Statutory Instrument: Special Educational Needs (Information) Regulations (Clause 65)**. It has been written as guidance for staff, parents or carers and children with reference to the following guidance and documents.

- SEND Code of Practice (which takes account of the SEN provisions of the SEN and Disability Act 2001) September 2014
- Ofsted Section 5 Inspection Framework April 2014
- Ofsted SEN Review 2010 “A Statement is not enough”
- Equality Act 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014

### Inclusion Statement

#### What is Inclusion?

- ✓ Raising achievement for all.
  - ✓ Creating the environment which provides the opportunity for all to reach their full potential.
  - ✓ Promoting access and diversity to their fullest extent.
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- We endeavour to achieve maximum inclusion of all children (including vulnerable learners) whilst meeting their individual needs.
  - Teachers provide differentiated learning opportunities for all the children within the school and provide materials appropriate to children’s interests and abilities. This ensures that all children have a full access to the school curriculum.
  - Special Educational Need might be an explanation for delayed or slower progress but is not an excuse, and we make every effort to narrow the gap in attainment between vulnerable groups of learners and others.
  - English as an Additional Language (EAL) is not considered a Special Education Need. Differentiated work and individual learning opportunities are provided for children who are learning EAL as part of our provision for vulnerable learners.
  - We focus on individual progress as the main indicator of success.
  - We strive to make a clear distinction between “underachievement” – often caused by a poor early experience of learning - and special educational needs.
    - Some pupils in our school may be underachieving but will not necessarily have a special educational need. It is our responsibility to spot this quickly and ensure that appropriate interventions are put in place to help these pupils catch up.
    - Other pupils will genuinely have Special Educational Needs, and this **may** lead to lower-attainment (though not necessarily to under-achievement). It is our responsibility to ensure that pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) have the maximum opportunity to attain and make progress in line with their peers. Accurate assessment of need and carefully planned programmes, which address the root causes of any learning difficulty, are essential ingredients of success for these pupils. These will be provided, initially, through additional support funded from the devolved schools budget.

## **Aims and Objectives of this Policy**

The aims of our inclusion policy and practice in our schools are:

- To provide curriculum access for all.
- To secure high levels of achievement for all.
- To meet individual needs through a wide range of provision.
- To attain high levels of satisfaction and participation from pupils, parent and carers.
- To carefully map provision for all vulnerable learners to ensure that staffing deployment, resource allocation and choice of intervention is leading to good learning outcomes.
- To ensure a high level of staff expertise to meet pupil need, through well targeted continuing professional development.
- To work in cooperative and productive partnership with the Local Authority and other outside agencies, to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of all vulnerable learners.
- To “promote children’s self-esteem and emotional well-being and help them to form and maintain worthwhile relationships based on respect for themselves and others”. (National Curriculum, 2014).

The Head of Schools and the Academy Boards have delegated the responsibility for the ongoing implementation of this Inclusion Policy to the Inclusion Manager/SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator).

The Inclusion Manager/SENDCo are responsible for reporting regularly to the head teacher and the governor with responsibility for SEN on the ongoing effectiveness of this inclusion policy.

The Inclusion Manager/SENDCo also have strategic responsibility for the inclusion of children who have EAL and the achievement of vulnerable ethnic minority groups

The Designated Teacher for Looked After Children has strategic responsibility for the inclusion of children who are adopted or in local authority care.

**All staff have a responsibility for maximising achievement and opportunity of vulnerable learners** – specifically, all teachers are teachers of pupils with special educational needs and EAL. Staff are aware of their responsibilities towards all vulnerable learners and a positive and sensitive attitude is shown towards all pupils at all times.

### **The name and contact details of the Inclusion Manager/SENDCo & Designated Teachers for Looked After Children:**

Robinswood: Mrs K Doorbar & Mrs J Crompton

Waterwells: Mrs J Burgess

Hunts Grove: Mrs Erika Jones

Moat: Mrs J Crompton

Grange: Mrs L Clarke

## SEN INFORMATION REPORT

- The kinds of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities which are provided for in our schools:

As inclusive schools we do not seek to closely define the special educational needs and disabilities for which we will make provision. Historically we have had success in providing for a wide range of different needs, when budget, resources and availability of expertise has allowed. This has included pupils with:

- Dyslexia/ Specific Learning Difficulties
- Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- Dyspraxia
- Hearing Impairment & Visual Impairment
- ADHD
- Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs
- Speech, Language and Communication Needs
- Physical Disabilities
- Sensory Processing Differences

In admitting pupils with special educational needs, we would expect to have informative discussions with both the pupil's family and the local authority to ascertain the suitability of our provision. We understand that it is initially our responsibility to make provision for a pupil with special educational needs through the school's devolved SEND budget. Thereafter we are aware of the process of applying for High Needs Funding if the pupil's and the school's needs make that a necessity. As mainstream schools, it would clearly be difficult for us to make provision for pupils whose needs and/or demands are significant, severe or profound – to the extent that it could be argued that they would be most appropriately placed in a special school. However, we do not rule this out and would make a careful assessment of the needs of each pupil in constructive conversation with other agencies.

## SEN INFORMATION REPORT

- Our schools' policies for identifying children and young people with SEND and assessing their needs.
- Our schools' arrangements for assessing and reviewing children and young people's progress towards outcomes.
- Our approach to teaching children and young people with SEND
- How adaptations are made to the curriculum and learning environment of children and young people with SEND.
- How our schools evaluate the effectiveness of their provision for children and young people with SEND.

In agreeing our staged arrangements, the Trust has taken into account the following statements and definitions:

*“Defining achievement in terms of the number of targets on an individual education plan achieved across a given time rarely ensured rigorous evaluation of provision or pupils’ progress. What made the difference to higher outcomes was effective target-setting within the curriculum or personalised programme as part of a whole-school policy on assessment.”*

***'Inclusion: does it matter where pupils are taught?' (Ofsted, 2006a)***

*"High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will meet the individual needs of the majority of children and young people. Some children and young people need educational provision that is additional to or different from this. This is special educational provision under Section 21 of the Children and Families Act 2014."*

***SEND Code of Practice (2014: Paragraph 1.24)***

*This is not necessarily "more literacy" or "more maths" but would be interventions which address the underlying learning needs of the pupil in order to improve his or her access to the curriculum."*

***"Achievement for All" (National Strategies: 2009)***

*Across all the education providers visited, the keys to good outcomes were good teaching and learning, close tracking, rigorous monitoring of progress with intervention quickly put in place, and a thorough evaluation of the impact of additional provision.*

***Ofsted SEN Review 2010***

*"Ensuring that schools are clear about their provision that is normally available for all children, including targeted help routinely provided for those falling behind and the additional provision they make for those with SEN, should simplify the process of planning the right help at school level" (p68)*

***SEND Code of Practice 2014***

**STAGE 1 Well-differentiated, quality first teaching, including, where appropriate, the use of small group interventions. All vulnerable learners to be included on a whole-school provision map.**

- All learners will have access to quality first teaching.
- Some vulnerable learners will have access to carefully differentiated activities or approaches directly related to the school curriculum which are part of our good practice in making teaching and learning accessible to pupils learning at different rates. These will probably be pupils who are underachieving and have been identified by the school as needing to make accelerated progress but will not necessarily be pupils with special educational needs. This is considered to be a differentiation of the usual school curriculum – not a special intervention for pupils with SEND.
- All vulnerable learners will be included on a detailed whole-school provision map which outlines and monitors all additional intervention across the school. The whole school provision map enables the school to:
  - Plan strategically to meet pupils' identified needs and track their provision.
  - Audit how well provision matches need
  - Recognise gaps in provision
  - Highlight repetitive or ineffective use of resources
  - Cost provision effectively
  - Demonstrate accountability for financial efficiency
  - Demonstrate to all staff how support is deployed
  - Inform parents, LEA, external agencies and Ofsted about resource deployment
  - Focus attention on whole-school issues of learning and teaching as well as individual needs, providing an important tool for self-evaluation.

## Identification and Assessment at Stage 1

Children's needs should be identified and met as early as possible through:

- The analysis of data including entry profiles, Baseline assessment, Foundation Stage Profile scores, "A Language in Common" assessment, reading ages, other whole-school pupil progress data.
- The analysis of information from whole school termly cycle of standardised assessments, reflecting attainment in Literacy and Numeracy against age related expectations (ARE).
- Classroom-based assessment and monitoring arrangements. (Cycle of planning, action and review.).
- Following up parental concerns.
- Tracking individual children's progress over time.
- Liaison with feeder nurseries on transfer.
- Information from previous schools.
- Information from other services.
- Maintaining a provision map for all vulnerable learners but which clearly identifies pupils receiving additional SEND Support from the school's devolved budget or in receipt of High Needs funding. This provision map is updated termly through meetings between the teachers and Inclusion Manager/SENDCo.
- Undertaking, when necessary, a more in-depth individual assessment - this may include a range of commercially available assessments, carefully chosen to deliver appropriate, useful information on a pupil's needs. It may include a bilingual assessment where English is not the first language.
- Involving an external agency where it is suspected that a Special Educational Need is significant.

## Curriculum Access and Provision for vulnerable learners

Where children are underachieving and/or identified as having Special Educational Needs, the school provides for these additional needs in a variety of ways and might use a combination of these approaches to address targets identified for individual pupils.

- Teachers differentiate work as part of quality first teaching.
- Small group withdrawal time (limited and carefully monitored to ensure curriculum entitlement is not compromised).
- Individual class support / individual withdrawal.
- High quality, individualised and well-resourced interventions (limited and carefully monitored to ensure curriculum entitlement is not compromised).
- Further differentiation of resources.
- Breakfast club.
- Homework support room.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of our provision for vulnerable learners is carried out in the following ways:

- Learning walks by the Head of School and Inclusion Manager/SENDCo.
- Classroom observation by the Inclusion Manager/SENDCo and senior leaders.
- Ongoing assessment of progress made by intervention groups.
- Work sampling on a termly basis.
- Scrutiny of planning.
- Informal feedback from all staff.
- Pupil interviews when setting new My Plan targets or reviewing existing targets.
- Pupil progress tracking using assessment data (whole-school processes).

- Monitoring My Plans and My Plan targets, evaluating the impact of My Plans on pupils' progress.
- Attendance records and liaison with Education Entitlement Service.
- Regular meetings about pupils' progress between the Inclusion Manager/SENDCo and the Head of School.
- Head of Schools' report to parents and governors.
- Regular meeting of Inclusion team to review provision for all vulnerable learners and identify where greater support is needed.

## **Stage 2 Additional Support at My Plan or My Plan+ level, SEN, EAL, Family or SEMH support**

- Pupils will be offered additional SEND support when it is clear that their needs require intervention which is "additional to" or "different from" the well-differentiated curriculum offer for all pupils in the school ie they have a special educational need as defined by the SEND Code of Practice 2014.
- Pupils who are not making progress after standard interventions at Stage 1.
- Under-achieving pupils and pupils with EAL who SEND do not have will **not** be placed on the register of pupils being offered additional SEND support (but will be on the school's provision map).
- In keeping with all vulnerable learners, intervention for pupils on the SEND register will be identified and tracked using the whole-school provision map.
- It may be decided that a very small number (but not all) of the pupils on the SEND register will require additional High Needs funding, for which an application needs to be made to the Local Authority, to ensure their underlying special educational need is being addressed. This may particularly be the case where outside agencies have been involved in assessing the pupil or contributing to their provision. Where the school can evidence that more than £6,000 above the Average Weighted Pupil Unit has, or will need to be, spent on a pupil within any one financial year, in order to meet his or her special educational needs, an application will be made to the Local Authority, with particular regard to the success criteria and SEN Descriptors published as part of the Local Offer.
- Where a pupil has a significant, severe and sustained need, it may be necessary to enter a multi-disciplinary assessment process with health and social care in order to consider the need for an Education Health and Care Plan.
- Where a pupil is in receipt of High Needs Funding and/or an Education Health and Care Plan, a decision will be made as to whether a short-term My Plan is required.

## **Our approach to My Plans is as follows:**

Our My Plans:

- **are the responsibility of the Class Teacher.**
- are a planning, teaching and reviewing tool which enables us to focus on particular areas of development for pupils with special educational needs. They are seen as working document which can be constantly refined and amended.
- will only record that which is *additional to* or *different from* the differentiated curriculum plan which is in place as part of provision for all children. Targets will address the underlying reasons why a pupil is having difficulty with learning – they will not simply be "more literacy" or "more maths".
- will be accessible to all those involved in their implementation – pupils should have an understanding and "ownership of the targets".
- will be based on informed assessment and will include the input of outside agencies, where appropriate.
- have been devised so that they are manageable and easily monitored and therefore will be monitored and evaluated regularly.

- will be time-limited – at (at least) termly (seasonal terms) review, there will be an agreed “where to next?”
- will have a maximum of four short / medium term SMART targets set for or by the pupil.
- will state what the learner is going to learn – not what the teacher is going to teach and will be clear about what the pupil should be able to do at the end of the given period.
- Targets for a My Plan will be arrived at through:
  - Discussion, wherever possible, between teacher and Inclusion Manager/SENDCo.
  - Discussion with parents/carers and pupil.
  - Discussion with another professional, where appropriate.
 (it has been decided not to prescribe an order of events - the precise order for this will vary from pupil to pupil).
- will be reviewed at least termly (seasonal term) by class teachers in consultation with the Inclusion Manager/SENDCo.

**Our approach to My Plan+ is as above, plus as follows:**

- My Plan+ assessments will be carried out for any pupils whose needs are complex and cover multiple aspects of their lives.
- My Plan+ assessments look more deeply into the context of a pupil’s life
- My Plan+ assessments and reviews need the involvement, opinions and support of parents, school staff and other professionals working with the pupil.
- My Plan+ documents will be reviewed regularly (every 6 weeks – seasonal term, maximum) by the Class teacher and Inclusion Manager/SENDCo with reports to inform or attendance of all other professionals involved with the pupils at a Team Around the Child (TAC) Meeting.

**Stage 3 Education Health and Care Plan**

- Pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan will have access to all arrangements for pupils on the SEND register (above) and, in addition to this, will have an Annual Review of their statement/plan.
- Our schools will comply with all local arrangements and procedures when applying for
  - High Needs Block Funding
  - An Education Health and Care Plan
 and will ensure that all pre-requisites for application have been met through ambitious and pro-active additional SEND Support using our devolved budget at an earlier stage.
- Our review procedures fully comply with those recommended in Section 6.15 of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and with local GCC policy and guidance - particularly with regard to the timescales set out within the process.

This provision is likely to cater for the holistic needs of the pupil, and can include:

- Weekend or holiday respite care, or short break
- Personal assistant support during school holidays
- Participation in sports activities or day trip with additional transport needs
- Specialist equipment or learning aids, i.e. electronic communication tools and supportive software
- Social worker support
- Extra therapy services
- Home modifications – ramp for wheelchair access
- Transport to attend special school play scheme or to undertake work placement

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Head of School

- The Head of School is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of all pupils and for making strategic decisions which will maximise their opportunity to learn
- The Head of School and the Academy Board will delegate the day to day implementation of this policy to the Inclusion Manager/SENDCo.
- The Head of School will be informed of the progress of all vulnerable learners and any issues with regard to the school's provision in this regard through:
  - analysis of the whole-school pupil progress tracking system
  - maintenance and analysis of a whole-school provision map for vulnerable learners (could be devolved to another member of the SLT and Inclusion Manager/SENDCo)
  - Pupil progress meetings with individual teachers
  - Regular meetings with the Inclusion Manager/SENDCo
  - Discussions and consultations with pupils and parents

### Inclusion Manager/SENDCo

In line with the recommendations in the SEND Code of Practice 2014, the Inclusion Manager/SENDCo will oversee the day- to-day operation of this policy in the following ways:

- Maintenance and analysis of whole-school provision map for vulnerable learners.
- Identifying on this provision map a staged register of pupils with special educational needs – those in receipt of additional SEND support from the schools devolved budget, those in receipt of High Needs funding and those with an Education Health and Care plan.
- Co-ordinating provision for children with special educational needs.
- Liaising with and advising teachers.
- Managing other classroom staff involved in supporting vulnerable learners.
- Overseeing the records on all children with Special Educational Needs.
- Contributing to the in-service training of staff.
- Implementing a programme of Annual Review for all pupils with an EHCP. Complying with requests from an Education Health and Care Plan Coordinator to participate in a review.
- Carrying out referral procedures to the Local Authority to request High Needs funding and/or an Education Health and Care Plan when it is suspected, on strong evidence arising from previous intervention (additional SEND support from devolved budget), that a pupil may have a special educational need which will require significant support.
- Overseeing the smooth running of transition arrangements and transfer of information for Year 6 pupils on the vulnerable learners' provision map.
- Monitoring the school's system for ensuring that My Plans, where it is agreed they will be useful for a pupil with special educational needs, have a high profile in the classroom and with pupils (see section below on My Plans).
- Evaluating regularly the impact and effectiveness of all additional interventions for all vulnerable learners (including those with special educational needs).
- Meeting **at least** termly (seasonal term) with each teacher to review and revise learning objectives for all vulnerable learners in their class who are being tracked on the school's provision map (school managers will guarantee planning and preparation time for teachers and Inclusion Manager/SENDCo to ensure that these meetings occur).
- Liaising and consulting sensitively with parents and families of pupils on the SEN register, keeping them informed of progress and listening to their views of progress, in conjunction with class teachers.
- Attending area SENDCo Cluster meetings and training as appropriate.

- Liaising with the appropriate Academy Board Member with oversight for the school's SEND arrangements ("the Academy Board SEND Lead") keeping him/her informed of current issues regarding provision for vulnerable learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (nationally, locally and within school).
  - Liaising closely with a range of outside agencies to support vulnerable learners.
  - Maintenance of a register of pupils with ethnic minority heritage and EAL, ensuring they are identified on the school's provision map.
  - Maintenance and analysis of whole-school provision map for vulnerable learners from ethnic/linguistic minority backgrounds.
  - Advising on and co-ordinating provision for children with additional needs relating to ethnic or linguistic background.
  - Working collaboratively with teachers to plan for and teach children with EAL as part of mainstream teaching practice.
  - Managing other classroom staff involved in supporting ethnic/linguistic minorities.
  - Overseeing the initial and on-going assessment records on all children with EAL.
  - Liaising with parents of ethnic and linguistic minority children, in conjunction with class teachers, keeping them informed of progress and listening to their views of progress.
  - Meeting **at least** termly (seasonal term) with each teacher to review the linguistic progress of children learning EAL and establish next steps in learning.
  - Evaluating regularly the impact and effectiveness of all additional interventions for children from cultural and linguistic minority backgrounds.
  - Overseeing the smooth running of transition arrangements and transfer of information for Year 6 pupils with EAL.
  - Contributing to the in-service training of staff, with regard to pupils from cultural and linguistic minority backgrounds.
  - Supporting the design and delivery of a culturally inclusive curriculum which reflects the ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity of the school.
  - Advising on and sourcing bilingual and culturally reflective materials to support children's learning across the curriculum.
  - Advising on and sourcing interpreters and materials in translation to ensure that bilingual parents have equality of access to essential information.
  - Liaising closely with a range of outside agencies to ethnic & linguistic minority learners
- **Class teacher**
  - **Primary responsibility for the learning of all pupils with SEND lies with the Class teacher.**
  - Liaising with the Inclusion Manager:
    - Which pupils in the class are vulnerable learners.
    - Which pupils are underachieving and need to have their additional interventions monitored on the vulnerable learners' provision map – but do not have special educational needs.
    - Which pupils (also on the provision map) require additional support because of a special educational need and need to go on the school's SEND register. Some of these pupils may require advice/support from an outside professional and, therefore, a My Plan to address a special educational need (this would include pupils with EHC Plans).
  - Securing good provision and good outcomes for all groups of vulnerable learners by:
    - Providing differentiated teaching and learning opportunities, including differentiated work for EAL pupils which reduces linguistic difficulty whilst maintaining cognitive challenge.

- Ensuring there is adequate opportunity for pupils with special educational needs to working on agreed targets which are genuinely “additional to” or “different from” those normally provided as part of the differentiated curriculum offer and strategies”. (SEND Code of Practice 2014).
- Ensuring effective deployment of resources – including teaching assistant support - to maximise outcomes for all groups of vulnerable learners.

### **Assessing and Reviewing pupils’ progress and the effectiveness of our educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

- Depending upon the stage of support as outlined above, the progress of our pupils will be assessed and reviewed through;
  - The school’s generic processes for tracking the progress of all pupils (Insight) and termly (seasonal term) standardised assessments for Mathematics (PUMA) and Reading (PIRA).
  - Half termly evaluation of the effectiveness of interventions on the provision map (in relation to the progress of each pupil), including the use of entry and exit data for interventions to measure the progress of pupils.
  - At least half termly evaluation of whether pupils in receipt of High Needs Funding and/or with Education Health and Care Plans are meeting their individual targets which have been written to address their underlying special educational need.
  - Annual review of /Education Health and Care Plans are prescribed in the SEND Code of Practice (September 2014)
  - Where appropriate, using finer measures of progress to ensure pupils are working towards their identified outcomes.
  - The use of specific assessments to identify need and progress for specific areas of development, e.g. reading, maths, language development, SEMH measures, etc.

#### **The Academy Board SEND Lead**

The Academy Board SEND Lead acts as a ‘critical friend’ and a champion for SEND pupils, and their parents, working in partnership with their Head of School, Academy Board and Inclusion manager to decide the school’s general policy and approach to meeting the needs of pupils on SEND Support, and those with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

#### **The Education (Special Educational Needs Coordinators) (England) Regulations 2014 state:**

*“The governing body must determine the leadership and management role and the key responsibilities of the SENDCO and monitor the SENDCO’s effectiveness in undertaking those responsibilities”.*

#### **The Governance Handbook (DfE: March 2019 - 6.4.11) outlines how:**

- All boards have legal duties in relation to pupils with SEND.
- Boards are also under a duty to ‘to take such steps as it is reasonable to have to take to avoid the substantial disadvantage’ to a disabled person caused by a provision, criterion or practice applied by or on behalf of a school, or by the absence of an auxiliary aid or service.
- In practice, the functions these duties require of the board can be delegated to a committee, an individual or to the executive leader; although the responsibility is still with the board itself to ensure that the functions are carried out. It should decide, with the executive leader, the school’s policy and approach to meeting children and young people’s SEND requirements, including those with and without Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

- All boards have legal duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 and must have regard to the statutory guidance, 'the SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years. Academies must also meet these requirements by virtue of their funding agreement.
- There should be an individual on the board or a committee with specific oversight of the arrangements for SEND.

In practice, the Academy Board SEND Lead will:

- Be clear about the role of the Inclusion Manager.
- Keep up to date with SEND legislation and developments.
- Attend any relevant SEND governor training locally and nationally.
- Meet with the Inclusion manager at least once every term formally, to discuss SEND issues, policy, provision and ongoing developments.
- Know how many pupils are on the school's SEND register at SEND support and EHC plan stages, and the nature of the special educational needs within the school.
- Meet with the team of teaching assistants at least once a term, to gain insight about their work first-hand, and to view facilities and resources in use.
- Listen to the views of SEND pupils about their additional provision.
- Know the views of parents/carers of SEND pupils, in relation to SEND policy and provision within the school.
- Monitor the use of the school's SEND funding, to ensure value for money.
- Be kept informed of the views of the local authority on the school's SEND provision.
- Be clear about the school's contribution to the local authority's 'Local Offer'.
- Seek opportunities to be involved in any local authority SEND working groups or forums.
- Be involved in the appointment of the next SENDCo.

#### SEN INFORMATION REPORT

- How children and young people with SEND are enabled to engage in activities available with children and young people in the school who do not have SEND.
- As inclusive schools, we do everything we can to ensure that pupils of all abilities and needs are fully included in the life of the schools.
- Where appropriate and legitimate, we endeavour to provide different ways for all learners to access the same learning experience, rather than withdrawing pupils and providing an entirely different activity.
- Our deployment of additional staffing and resources funded from our devolved additional needs budget through the Local Offer, ensure that all curriculum experiences are available to all pupils in the school (e.g. educational visits, extra-curricular activities), particularly where a voluntary financial contribution from parents is required for the activity to run. This is in compliance with the Equality Act 2010.
- All lesson planning seeks to address the learning needs of all pupils in the class. Teachers receive regular training and support to ensure they are skilled in differentiating the curriculum for vulnerable learners. When subject coordinators monitor planning, work and progress data and when they or senior leaders carry out observations of teaching and learning in classrooms, particular attention is given to whether the ongoing learning offer is inclusive.

- Pupils are encouraged to analyse how they themselves learn and there is an ongoing dialogue about this in our classrooms. Pupils are given the opportunity and support to develop self-help strategies to ensure their full access to the curriculum.

#### SEN INFORMATION REPORT

- Support for improving emotional and social development, including extra pastoral arrangements for listening to the views of children and young people with SEND and measures to prevent bullying.

At The Robinswood Academy Trust, emotional and social development is viewed as being an integral part of its culture. Central to this is our inclusion teams which are comprised of:

- Inclusion Manager
- SENDCo
- Learning Mentors
- Family Support Worker
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Student Council

The focus on the child as a whole and the recognition that in order for any child to learn they must be calm, happy, healthy and attending.

In order to meet the needs of our pupils we run a range of interventions and approaches:

- Thrive Approach
- Play Therapy
- Solution Focussed Approaches to problem solving with pupils, parents and staff
- Regular staff training with a focus on wellbeing, mental health, and emotional and social development ensure staff are confident in dealing with the whole child.
- 1:1 mentoring

#### SEN INFORMATION REPORT

- Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and about how specialist expertise will be secured.
- In accordance with Section 6 of the SEND Code of Practice 2014, if appointed after September 2008, our Inclusion Manager/SENDCo will be a qualified teacher working at our school and is completing the statutory accreditation. If a new Inclusion Manager/SENDCo is appointed, he/she will gain statutory accreditation within three years of appointment.

- The Inclusion Manager/SENDCo and Designated Teacher for LAC will regularly attend local network meetings.
- All staff will be trained in how to best support all vulnerable learners in order to maximise their achievement as part of the school development plan and annual schedule of continuous professional development. Specific training needs will be identified and met through the appraisal/performance management process.
- Specialist advice and expertise in relation to assessment and support of individual pupils will be commissioned by the school from the open market, accessing, as far as possible, services available as part of the Local Offer. Service level agreements and quality assurance criteria will be put in place at the point of commissioning and the Executive Head Teacher, Head of Schools and senior leaders will be responsible for reporting to governors on the efficacy of these arrangements (including value for money). Our schools will, wherever possible, join with other schools in joint commissioning and quality assurance arrangements.
- All staffing appointments to support vulnerable learners will be carried out in accordance with equal opportunities legislation, employment law, safer recruiting policy and best practice. All vacancies will be competitively advertised to ensure our school employs staff of the highest calibre.

#### **SEN INFORMATION REPORT**

- Information about how equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs will be secured.
- When specialist equipment or a high level of staffing support is required to support a pupil with special educational needs, our schools will fund this as additional SEND support up to £6,000 per annum for each individual pupil. Thereafter, if the cost is higher and the provision of these facilities is likely to be prolonged, the school will apply to the Local Authority for High Needs Block Funding.
- Specialist equipment and expertise in relation to its use will be purchased/hired/ commissioned by the school from the open market, subject to the usual guarantees, service level agreements and quality assurance criteria. Our schools will, wherever possible, join with other schools in joint purchasing/hire of equipment.
- All staffing appointments to support vulnerable learners will be carried out in accordance with equal opportunities legislation, employment law, safer recruiting policy and best practice. All vacancies will be competitively advertised and recruited.

#### **SEN INFORMATION REPORT**

- Arrangements for consulting parents of children with Special Educational Needs and involving them in their child's education.
- Arrangements for consulting young people with SEND and involving them in their education.

## Partnership with Parents/Carers

The school aims to work in partnership with parents and carers. We do so by:

- Working effectively with all other agencies supporting children and their parents.
- Giving parents and carers opportunities to play an active and valued role in their child's education.
- Making parents and carers feel welcome.
- Encouraging parents and carers to inform school of any difficulties they perceive their child may be having or other needs the child may have which need addressing.
- Instilling confidence that the school will listen and act appropriately.
- Focusing on the child's strengths as well as areas of additional need.
- Allowing parents and carers opportunities to discuss ways in which they and the school can help their child.
- Agreeing targets for all pupils, in particular, those not making expected progress and, for some pupils identified as having special educational needs, involving parents in the drawing-up and monitoring progress against these targets.
- Keeping parents and carers informed and giving support during assessment and any related decision-making process.
- Making parents and carers aware of the Parent Partnership services available as part of the Local Offer.
- Providing all information in an accessible way, including, where necessary, translated information for parents with English as an Additional Language.

## Involvement of Pupils

We recognise that all pupils have the right to be involved in making decisions and exercising choice. In most lessons, all pupils are involved in monitoring and reviewing their progress through the use of layered targets. We endeavour to fully involve all pupils by encouraging them to:

- State their views about their education and learning.
- Identify their own needs and learn about learning.
- Share in individual target setting across the curriculum **so that they know what their targets are and why they have them.**
- Self-review their progress and set new targets.
- For some pupils with special educational needs, monitor their success at achieving the targets on their My Plan.

### SEN INFORMATION REPORT

- How our schools involve other bodies, including health and social care bodies, local authority support services and voluntary sector organisations in meeting children and young people's special educational needs and supporting their families.
- Our schools will identify sources of support as they develop and evolve as the Local Offer is defined through Education, Health and Social Care (including the establishment of joint commissioning arrangements).
- We seek to respond quickly to emerging need and work closely with other agencies including:
  - Gloucestershire Early Help Partnership

- CYPs
  - Educational Psychology Service
  - Gloucestershire Parent Partnership Service
  - SENDIASS Gloucestershire (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service)
  - Advisory Teaching Service
  - Gloucestershire Outreach Teams
  - Local NHS services, including but not limited to School Nursing, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, etc.
  - Virtual School (for Looked After Children)
  - Targeted Prevention Team
  - Education Inclusion Service
  - Early Years SEN support service (Inc Portage team)
  - Multi-agency safeguarding hub
- In accordance with the SEND Code of Practice 2014 we invite all relevant agencies to annual review meetings, transition meetings and specific provision planning meetings involving pupils with special educational needs in our school. For pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans, we comply fully with requests from independent facilitators to provide information and cooperate fully with other agencies.
  - Often at the request of families, we liaise with voluntary bodies in order to be as familiar as possible with best practice when the special educational needs of a pupil are very specific (e.g. autism, visual impairment etc).
  - We have a clear point of contact within the school who will coordinate the support from outside agencies for each pupil. Most often this will be the Inclusion Manager/SENDCo or Designated Teacher for LAC, but in some cases, it can be another member of staff who we have identified as a key worker.
  - Seeking out examples of best practice from other schools and education settings.

#### **SEND INFORMATION REPORT**

- Arrangements for supporting children and young people in moving between phases of education and preparing for adulthood (effective transition)
- We will ensure smooth transition into our school from the previous phase of education and from our school into the next phase of education.
- We will ensure early and timely planning for transfer to a pupil's next phase of education and, in the year before the year in which they leave, will offer transition meetings to all pupils in receipt of Additional SEND

support. Pupils with Education Health and Care Plans will have next phase destinations and transition arrangements discussed at plan review meetings convened by the plan coordinator.

- A transition timeline will be produced, with specific responsibilities identified.
- Support for the pupil in coming to terms with moving on will be carefully planned and will include familiarisation visits and counselling. Pupils will be included in all “class transition days” to the next phase but may also be offered additional transition visits.
- Pupils and parents will be encouraged to consider all options for the next phase of education and the school will involve outside agencies, as appropriate, to ensure information is comprehensive but easily accessible and understandable. Accompanied visits to other providers may be arranged as appropriate.
- Parents will be given a reliable named contact at the next phase provider with whom the Inclusion Manager will liaise.

### **Admission Arrangements**

No child will be refused admission to school on the basis of his or her special educational need, disability, ethnicity or language need. In line with the Equalities Act 2010, we will not discriminate against disabled children and we will take all reasonable steps to provide effective educational provision (*see Admission policy for the school, as agreed with the Local Authority*).

#### **SEN INFORMATION REPORT**

- Arrangements made by the governing body or the proprietor relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school.

### **Complaints**

If there are any complaints relating to the provision for children with SEND or EAL these will be dealt with in the first instance by the class teacher and Inclusion Manager, then, if unresolved, by Head of school. The governor with specific responsibility for SEND may be involved if necessary. In the case of an unresolved complaint the issue should be taken through the Trust’s complaints procedure (see separate Complaints Policy).

#### **SEN INFORMATION REPORT**

- The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs, including those for arrangements made in accordance with clause 32.

*(Please refer to our school’s Safeguarding Policy for details of how we access the CAF team and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)*

## Links with Other Services

Effective working links will also be maintained with:

Educational Psychology Service: Contact Number: 01452 328004

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/eps>

Speech and Language Therapy (Children): Contact Number: 0300 421 8937

<http://www.glos-care.nhs.uk/index.php/our-services/children-young-people/slt>

Children's Occupational Therapy Service: Contact Number: 0300 421 6974

<http://www.glos-care.nhs.uk/index.php/our-services/children-young-people/children-s-occupational-therapy>

Parent Partnership Service: Contact Number: 0800 158 3603

<http://www.glospps.org.uk/>

SEND Early Help Service, Gloucester: Contact number: 01452 328076

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/early-help-for-families>

Virtual School (for Looked After Children): Contact number: 01452 328360

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/vschool/article/112537/Home-Page>

Schools Outreach Support:

<http://gloucestershireoutreachservice.co.uk/index.php/participating-schools/>

(See Local Offer website link below for contact details in relation to High Needs Funding Applications and Education Health and Care Plans)

### SEN INFORMATION REPORT

- Information on where the local authority's local offer is published.

<http://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/localoffer.page>

### Inclusion of pupils with English as an additional language

#### Definition

A pupil who has English as an Additional Language is a pupil whose first language is not English, and who uses that language on a regular basis inside or outside of school. EAL pupils are not considered to have a Special Educational Need but are seen to benefit from the ability to live and learn in more than one language.

## **Ethos**

We strive to recognise, welcome and celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity and have a high expectation of all pupils regardless of ethnic, cultural or linguistic heritage. We aim to include all pupils and parents in our school by respecting that diversity and reflecting it in our school environment, curriculum, learning resources and partnership with parents. We welcome the enrichment that linguistic and cultural diversity brings to our school community.

The routine and prolonged withdrawal from mainstream of children with EAL is not recognised as good practice and does not promote rapid language acquisition. Language acquisition is best promoted through a range of good, inclusive strategies, interventions and differentiation of the usual school curriculum.

## **Admissions**

No pupil will be refused admission on the basis of ethnicity or EAL. Pupils who have EAL will be admitted under the same criteria as any other pupil applying for a school place. Where parents do not speak English, we endeavour to provide oral and written information and help in first language which will facilitate the admission process and provide key information about our school. On admission, the pupil will have access to a welcome and induction programme which recognises their linguistic needs and provides a safe and secure start to their learning.

## **Provision**

Pupils with EAL will have full access to mainstream provision regardless of their proficiency in English. Where necessary, additional support will be given to improve acquisition of English: this will be provided through Wave 1 and, where appropriate, Wave 2 teaching.

The following provision can be expected:

- Initial assessment of EAL using QCA 'A Language in Common' to record stage of language acquisition where it is below Literacy age related expectations (ARE) for Year 2.
- A further mother tongue assessment may be applicable where SEN is known or where further information needs to be gathered in the pupil's first language.
- Pupils will be placed in sets and groups which match their academic ability. Initially this may be in a middle ability set until the pupil's academic strengths can be more fully assessed. Pupils will not be placed with SEND pupils unless SEND is indicated.
- Work in class will be differentiated for the pupils to lessen linguistic difficulties without significantly reducing academic challenge. Differentiated homework will be provided to enable the pupil to improve their knowledge and use of English and to participate in homework activities on an equal basis with their peers.
- Additional support for pupils may be given through first language resources & translation facilities; teaching support on a 1:1 or small group basis, peer group support; pre-teaching of key concepts and vocabulary.
- Where necessary, catch-up work will be provided for pupils arriving from overseas who have experienced a different curriculum or who may have gaps in their schooling. Where pupils are ahead of their peer group in terms of learning, differentiation will be made in order to access learning at an appropriate level.
- Progress of EAL pupils will be monitored against both A Language in Common (where below Age-Related Expectations (ARE) for Year 2) and against National Curriculum indicators. Where accelerated progress in English is needed for reasons of EAL, targets will be set, and provision made on agreement between the class teacher and the Inclusion Manager. Provision will be recorded and monitored for effectiveness using

the school's provision map, in line with standard practice for all vulnerable learners in the school. The pupil will not be placed on the SEN register for reasons of EAL.

### **Provision leads**

Provision for pupils with English as a second language is led by a team within school, including:

- 1 KS1 teacher with a special interest.
- 1 HLTA with the TEFL qualification (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), experienced in the development of the English language.
- 1 TA with the TEFL qualification, who speaks Polish, Russian, French and Italian.
- The Inclusion Manager.

The provision leads assess pupils on admission, provide interventions to improve English speaking, advise class staff of best practise and provide support for pupils and parents with English as a second language.

### **Parental support**

We recognise that some parents who are learning English may find it difficult to communicate with the school and approach the school regarding any concerns they may have on their child's progress. We endeavour to fully include EAL parents in the life of the school by, wherever possible, providing interpreting facilities at parents' evenings and other school meetings and by providing key school information in translated format.

## **Inclusion of pupils who are Looked After in Local Authority Care**

Our school recognises that:

- Children who are looked after in local authority care have the same rights as all children but may have additional needs due to attachment issues, early neglect, separation and loss, trauma and many placement moves. These barriers to learning can affect their educational outcomes and their personal, social and emotional development.
- There are commonly understood reasons (Social Exclusion Unit Report :2003] why children who are looked after in local authority care often fail to make expected progress at school:
  - Placement instability
  - Unsatisfactory educational experiences of many carers
  - Too much time out of school
  - Insufficient help if they fall behind
  - Unmet needs - emotional, mental, social and physical
- There is a statutory requirement for all schools to have a designated teacher (DT) for looked after children. (The name of the current designated teacher at our school is given at the end of this inclusion policy). The responsibilities of our designated teacher include:
  - Monitoring the progress of children who are 'looked after' to ensure that they have the best life chances possible and access to the full range of opportunities in school.
  - Ensuring that children who are 'looked after' have access to the appropriate network of support.

- Checking that the statutory Personal Education Plan (PEP) has been arranged and that it is regularly reviewed, at least every six months.
- Ensuring that information concerning the education of children who are 'looked after' is transferred between agencies and individuals.
- Preparing a report on the child's educational progress to contribute towards the statutory review. (These are usually held at six monthly intervals or more frequently if there is a concern).
- Discussing feedback from the statutory review (chaired by the Independent Reviewing Officer) with social workers and, where necessary, the carers and a member of the Virtual School team.
- Liaising with the child's social worker to ensure that there is effective communication at all times.
- Celebrating the child's successes and acknowledge the progress they are making.

Our school will work closely with the county's The Virtual School (VS) for Children which promotes the educational needs of Looked After Children and monitors admissions, PEP completion, attendance & exclusions.

### Inclusion of pupils who are more able

In this section the term 'more able' refers to pupils who have a broad range of achievement at a very high level and have very well-developed learning skills across the curriculum. The term also refers to pupils who excel in one or more specific fields, such as sport or music, but who may or may not perform at a high level across all areas of learning:

- **Physical talents** sports, games, skilled, dexterity.
- **Visual/performing abilities** dance, movement, drama.
- **Mechanical ingenuity** construction, object assembly (and disassembly), systematic, working solutions.
- **Outstanding leadership** organiser, outstanding team leader, sound judgements.
- **Social awareness** sensitivity, empathy.
- **Creativity** artistic, musical, linguistic.

We respect the right of all children in our school, irrespective of differences in ability, to access a number of areas of learning, and to develop the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes that are necessary for their self-fulfilment and eventual development into active and responsible adults.

The aims of our school make specific reference to teaching and learning that takes into account the needs of all children. They also identify the commitment to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. This policy guides the way in which this happens for our more able children.

Based on DFES guidelines, we monitor the children closely in the FS and at KS1, but we only identify more able children once they are in KS2.

#### Identification

Before identifying any child 'more able' in a particular area, we aim to ensure that all children have had the opportunity to learn and succeed in this area. This makes the identification process fair. Identification of pupils as more able is a judgement which applies to the current class/school context and refers to the current level of performance only. This means that 'at this time this child is showing ability in a particular area'.

Identification at our school does not necessarily mean that in another school or context the child would be identified.

A gifted or talented pupil should be identified using a variety of methods. The specific procedure will vary according to subject area but will include elements of the following:

- teacher nomination
- assessment results
- specialist teacher identification
- parental nomination
- peer nomination
- self-nomination

Each year the school will draw up a register of more able children, this register will be kept under review. Provision for more able children will be tracked on the school's provision map.

### **Provision**

Teachers have high expectations and plan carefully to meet the learning needs of all our children. We give all children the opportunity to show what they know, understand and can do, and we achieve this in a variety of ways when planning for children's learning by providing:

- A common activity that allows the children to respond at their own level.
- An enrichment activity that broadens a child's depth of learning in a particular skill or knowledge area.
- An individual activity within a common theme that reflects a greater depth of understanding and higher level of attainment.
- The opportunity for children to progress through their work at their own rate of learning.

Children meet a variety of organisational strategies as they move through the school. Each strategy supports all children in their learning but gives due regard to the more able and gifted learner.

From Year 1 to Year 6 we set targets for English and mathematics at the appropriate level. We teach the children in our classes with appropriate differentiation, and we run 'more able groups' in English and mathematics at KS2.

We offer a range of extra-curricular activities for our children. These activities offer more able children the opportunity to further extend their learning in a range of activities. Opportunities include a range of sporting and musical clubs. School based provision includes opportunities for performance, artists in residence, specialist teaching and partnership with primary and secondary schools.

## **Inclusion of pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding**

### **Identification**

The Pupil Premium is funding provided to schools which is additional to main school funding. It is allocated according to the number of pupils on-roll who are eligible for free school meals (FSM), a smaller amount allocated according to the number of children of service families, and an allocation for each pupil who has

been 'Looked After' (in care) for 6 months or more. In 2012, funding was extended to include pupils who have been eligible for free school meals within the past 6 years.

The Government believes that the Pupil Premium is the best way to address the current underlying inequality in outcomes between children eligible for FSM and their wealthier peers, by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most. However, it is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium is spent, since they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for the individual pupils within their responsibility. Schools are to be held accountable for how they have used the additional funding to support pupils from low-income families and from September 2012, this information must be published.

### **Our Aim**

The targeted and strategic use of pupil premium will support us in meeting our aim of helping everyone achieve their full potential. As a school, we do this by:

- Assuring the best possible delivery of learning experiences in the classroom.
- By having a range of interventions designed to support those with identified needs
- Offering a rich and varied menu of activities and opportunities designed to engage and motivate pupils, raising their aspirations and creating a positive view of learning.

### **Principles**

- We ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all of our pupils.
- We ensure that appropriate provision is made for pupils who belong to vulnerable groups, this includes ensuring that the needs of socially disadvantaged pupils are adequately assessed and addresses
- In making provision for socially disadvantaged pupils, we recognise that not all pupils who receive free school meals (FSM) will be socially disadvantaged. For the purpose of this policy FSM children will include past as well as current recipients.
- We also recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals. We reserve the right to allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any pupils who the school has legitimately identified as being socially disadvantaged.
- Pupil Premium funding will be allocated following a needs analysis which will identify priority classes, groups or individuals. Limited funding and resources mean that not all children receiving FSM will be in receipt of Pupil Premium interventions at any one time.

### **Provision**

- The range of provision the school may consider could be:
  1. **Achievement and Standards** work including additional class based or intervention work to accelerate progress of targeted groups or individuals
  2. **Learning Support** to enable children to fully access learning and accelerate progress where there are specific barriers other than identified Special Educational Learning Needs
  3. **Pastoral Work** which undertakes to raise self- esteem, extend their personal skill set and support children to make appropriate choices in order to maximise learning opportunities
  4. **Out of Hours and enrichment** to ensure that children are given a full opportunity to develop other talents in sport and creativity to also improve self- confidence and motivation.
- All our work through the Pupil Premium will be aimed at accelerating progress, moving children to at least age-related expectations.

- Pupil premium resources may also be used to target able children on FSM to achieve a greater depth of learning in year 2 or 6, reflected in the pupils' SATs results.

## **Reporting**

- It will be the responsibility of the Head of Schools, or delegated member of staff, to produce regular reports on:
  - The progress made towards narrowing the gap for socially disadvantaged pupils
  - An outline of the provision in place at the school
  - An evaluation of the effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular provision
- The schools will ensure that there is an annual statement to parents on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of 'narrowing the gap', for socially disadvantaged pupils. This task will be carried out mindful of any requirements published by the Department for Education.

Information regarding how the Pupil Premium was spent in the last financial year, the impact of this funding, and the plans for future spending are published on our schools' websites.

**Approved by Trust Board: 12/19**  
**Next Review: 12/20**