

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Report

Benedict Academy

Introduction

Benedict Academy is a one form entry primary school within the STEP academy trust. We are an inclusive school with the expectation that all pupils, regardless of their specific needs, should be offered a wholly inclusive environment and learning that will enable them to make the best possible progress in school whilst also feeling that they are a valued member of the wider school community.

At Benedict, we are led by our core values of Passion, Urgency, Positivity, Aspiration and commitment (PUPAC). Our school offers a range of provision across the four areas of Special Educational needs to support children with:

- communication and interaction needs
- cognition and learning difficulties
- social and emotional and mental health needs
- sensory difficulties or physical needs.

Support offered will be tailored to individual need, following comprehensive assessment by internal and/or external agencies. Support is intended to promote pupils' independence, self-awareness and self-esteem and foster resilience in learning and be seen in the wider context of excellent classroom teaching.

Who can I contact if I have concerns or questions about my child?

Class Teacher	<p>The class teacher is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapting the curriculum to respond to strengths and needs of all pupils. • Checking on the progress of your child and identifying, planning and delivering of any additional support. • Contributing to devising personalised learning plans to prioritise and focus on the next steps required for your child to improve learning. • Applying the school's SEN policy. If you have concerns about your child you should first speak to your child's class teacher. You might then be directed to the SENCO, or your class teacher might seek further advice from the SENCO on your behalf.
<p>Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDCo) / Inclusion Lead: Sade Ajiboye</p>	<p>The SENCO is responsible for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing advice to staff and organising training to ensure that all staff are skilled and confident in meeting a range of needs. • Coordinating day to day provision for children with SEN • Liaising with a range of agencies outside of school who can offer advice and support to help pupils overcome any difficulties. • Line Managing the support staff and developing the school's SEN policy. • Reporting to Governors in matters relating to SEN and Disability
SEN Governor	<p>The SEN governor is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting school to evaluate and develop quality and impact of provision for pupils with SEN across the school.

How does the school teach and support children with Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)?

Our teachers are skilled at adapting teaching and learning methods to meet the diverse range of needs in each class, which we refer to as Quality First Teaching. Daily planning takes into account individual pupil needs to ensure that all pupils can experience success and challenge in their learning. High quality teaching strategies for children with SEND are high quality strategies for all children; with this in mind, our teachers use a range of strategies that are frequently recommended for specific learning needs in class as part of their daily teaching repertoire. This includes using any additional adults available flexibly to help groups and individual pupils with a long term goal of developing independent learning skills, as well as planning and delivering daily or weekly intervention where appropriate.

On occasion, it may not be appropriate for some children to follow the expectations for their year group in one or more areas of the curriculum; or they may need a higher level of support or intervention in order to achieve the same learning objectives as their peers. Where this is the case, the class teacher will take advice from the SENCo and/or outside agencies to ensure the child is still challenged to achieve their best, whilst being supported to achieve learning objectives appropriate to their level of ability. Their progress is monitored closely and reviewed regularly as part of the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle laid out in the SEN Code of Practice.

How does the school identify and assess children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability?

At Benedict Academy, class teachers and the leadership team monitor the progress of all pupils regularly to review their progress. We also use a range of assessments with all the pupils at various points including termly teacher assessments and statutory assessments such as the Year 1 phonics screening and end of key stage SATs.

The principle of early identification and intervention underpins our approach to identifying those pupils who need extra help. This support and intervention is put in place, even if special educational need has not been identified. This extra support will enable the pupil to close the gap between their own level of achievement and that of their peers.

Despite high quality targeted teaching some pupils may continue to make less progress than their peers. For these pupils, and in consultation with parents, strengths and weaknesses are identified and used to identify an appropriate individualised intervention programme. More detailed assessment of needs may be carried out by the SENCo to provide the class teacher with advice and at times it may be necessary to consult with outside agencies to receive more specialised expertise. The purpose of this more detailed assessment and review is to understand what additional resources and different approaches are required to enable the pupil to make better progress.

At this point, because the pupil requires additional provision, we will have identified that the pupil has a Special Educational Need and they will be included on our SEN register to ensure the cycle of assess, plan, monitor and review is applied effectively. If the pupil makes good progress using this additional and different intervention (but would not be able to maintain this good progress without it) we will continue to identify the pupil as having a Special Educational Need.

Staff are also trained in identifying and supporting a range of other difficulties in addition to cognitive and learning needs, such as speech and language, sensory needs and social, emotional and mental well-being needs. Where the class teacher identifies concerns they feel are unable to be addressed via Quality First Teacher, they can refer the need to the SENCo and consider, in consultation with the parent, whether advice from an outside agency is appropriate.

We will ensure that all teachers and support staff who work with the pupil are aware of the support to be provided and the teaching approaches to be used. Teachers and the Inclusion Leader meet at least termly to review and monitor progress and to assess the impact of interventions for all children who are on the SEN register. Children who have more complex needs

recorded on an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) have a more detailed review once a year that is attended by parents and outside agencies.

What is the Graduated Response?

Benedict Academy applies the Graduated Response, as outlined in the SEND Code of Practice (2014), when supporting children who have an identified Special Educational Need. During the Graduated Response process, the class teacher will gather information about the child's learning and the use of strategies and appropriate learning tasks for the child will be discussed with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCo).

As outlined above, this means that the child will be placed on the school's Special Educational Needs Register so that provision to meet their needs can be planned for and effective support can be put in place to remove barriers to their learning. These children will be provided with a Individual Learning Plan (personalised Individual Education Plan). The graduated response means a range of strategies will be implemented and evaluated before referral to outside agencies, so that when children are referred to an outside agency, the specialist can be provided with a wealth of information with which to better inform the next steps.

When children are seen to have a range of complex needs which are not showing improvement, despite input from outside agencies, then it may be necessary to apply for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for the child.

What support is there for children's social, emotional and mental well-being?

At Benedict Academy we believe that it is our role to work with families to develop the whole child. We teach children about tolerance and understanding, as well as about managing their feelings in whole class lessons of PSHE. We believe that by increasing children's awareness about mental health they are better able to manage the strong emotions that we all feel from time to time.

We take incidents of bullying very seriously and they are dealt with robustly when they occur. Staff will speak to you if we feel your child has experienced bullying as a victim or as a perpetrator. We teach all our children about bullying and specific kinds of targeted bullying e.g. as part of our assemblies programme. We record all reported incidences of bullying so we can monitor trends and patterns enabling staff to intervene early and prevent bullying from occurring whenever possible. We know that pupils with SEND can be more vulnerable. All staff at Benedict Academy have been trained in identifying signs of abuse in SEND children and have read and understood the updated guidance from Keeping Children Safe in Education.

When needed, and with the express consent of the parent or carer, our school can support children experiencing particularly challenging times on a 1:1 basis through the THRIVE approach. Using this approach we can identify where children would benefit from intervention to improve social skills, self-esteem and confidence and run small group interventions to address a range of difficulties in these areas.

The school may work with other services to support children including CAMHS and the Early Help services to ensure children get any specialist support they may need. We will always discuss such support with the parent first if we feel we need to engage with these outside agencies.

What outside agencies does the school work with?

Our school works with a number of external agencies to seek the advice and support of experts to ensure that the needs of all children are fully understood and met. We are able to make referrals to some of these services, whilst others must be referred to via your GP. If we feel is beneficial for your child to have the input from one of these services, it will be discussed with you as part of our Graduated Response.

Outside agencies we work with include, but are not limited to:

- Educational Psychology Service
- The Local Authority SEN Team
- Paediatricians
- CAMHS

- Occupational Therapy
- NHS Speech and Language
- Merton LBL team
- Merton 'Off the Record' counselling service
- Merton Autistic outreach service

How are Parents and Carers involved in reviewing children's progress and planning support?

We are committed to working with parents and carers and we are proud of the good relationships we have at Benedict Academy. We aim to offer an approach which meets that individual child's needs through collaborative working with both parents/ carers and professionals.

When we review the progress of children with SEND we seek parents' and carers' opinions on their child's progress and input into the new targets that are set. These reviews take place at least termly, but occasional more frequently if required. If parents/ carers wish for an additional review they can speak to their child's class teacher so that this can be arranged.

Children with Education, Health and Care Plans also have short term targets that are reviewed termly, but they also have more formal annual reviews held at least annually. Children and parents are invited to share their opinions and concerns during this meeting but are also invited to put their views in writing for this review.

How are children involved in reviewing and planning their progress and planning support?

At Benedict Academy, we are committed to allowing all our children to have a voice and to have a say in their own personalised learning plans. Their short term Individual Learning Plan targets are shared with them and they are given an opportunity to say how they feel they are progressing and to tell their teacher what helps them to learn every time their Individual Learning Plan targets are reviewed.

There are many opportunities for children to tell us what they think in school, these include:

- Pupil discussions with LSAs or class teacher
- Daily self-assessment of learning in class
- SEND support review meetings.
- Annual reviews for those with an EHCP

The above list is not exhaustive and open channels for communication between pupils and staff are encouraged.

What training do school staff have?

An ongoing programme of professional development is in place to ensure that teachers and support staff have appropriate skills and knowledge in areas that will improve their teaching and support of children with SEN.

Recent training has covered :

- Quality First teaching of common Specific Learning Difficulties
- Colourful Semantics
- Mental Health and Well Being - THRIVE
- Speech & Language, including ELKLAN
- Autism support

How accessible is the school?

Our school site is a building that is accessible to children with limited or impaired mobility. The school is on two floors, the upper floor can be accessed by a lift. Doorways and corridors are wide enough to allow easy access and space for wheelchairs, or other mobility equipment to be manoeuvred and a lift for access to all floors has been installed.

In the instance of further equipment or facility adjustments required we would seek advice from

Occupational Therapy or Croydon Sensory Support Service as relevant with a view to making reasonable adjustments needed.

As a school, we are subject to the Equalities Act 2010 and are bound to make reasonable adjustments and provide auxiliary aids to ensure that no child with a disability will be disadvantaged when attending our school.

How are children with SEND included in extra curricular activities, including school trips?

Through careful planning and reasonable adjustments, pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school together with those who do not have SEND and are encouraged to participate fully in the life of the school and any wider community activity. Where necessary, we carry out individual risk assessments for pupils who may experience difficulties when attending school trip to ensure that their experience is not impeded in any way.

We work with parents and pupils to listen to their views, feelings and wishes to ensure pupils with SEND engage fully in any wider learning experiences.

Where can I find more information, advice and support?

You can find information regarding the Merton 'local offer' on the internet:

[Merton Special Educational Needs Information, Advice and Support Service \(MIASS\) | Merton directories](#)

Speech and Language Therapy Service	<p>Email: CLCHT.MertonICNTeam@nhs.net Address: Cricket Green Polyclinic, 4 Birches Close, Mitcham CR4 4LQ Phone number: 03300 539 264</p>
CAMHS	<p>Email: mertonspareferrals@swlstg.nhs.uk Address: Birches Close, Mitcham, London CR4 4LQ Phone number: 020 3513 5000</p>
Virtual School (responsible for Children Looked After)	<p>Email: VirtualSchool@merton.gov.uk Address: The Virtual School for Looked After Children, 11th Floor, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX Phone number: 020 8545 4199</p>
Occupational Therapy	<p>Email: ssotduty@merton.gov.uk - available 9am -5 pm Address: Occupational Therapy Service, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX Phone number: 020 8545 4477 / 020 8545 4428 Monday to Friday 9:30am to 12:30pm (no facility to leave messages)</p>
Merton LBL team	<p>Email: admin.lbl-vbs@merton.gov.uk Address: The Chaucer Centre, Chaucer Building, Canterbury Road, Morden SM4 6PX Phone number: 020 8288 5692</p>
Merton Autistic Outreach Service	<p>Email: bonnie.brown@cricketgreen.merton.sch.uk Address: Cricket Green School, Lower Green West, Mitcham CR4 3AF Phone number: 020 8640 1177</p>

What can I do if I am not happy or want to complain?

If you are unhappy, you should speak to your child's class teacher first. We always want to resolve issues as soon as possible so please raise any concerns with us as soon as you can.

If the complaint cannot be resolved, you can ask to meet with the Head of School.

If you remain unhappy after this, you can make a complaint in line with the processes described in the STEP Academy Trust complaint policy, and a complaints panel will meet to discuss your complaint.

More details of how to do all these things is given within our complaints policy which you can find a copy of on our website along with a form to complete.