SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) POLICY

AREA:	Brimble Hill and Uplands Schools
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Brunel Academies Trust (BAT) is a company limited by guarantee with registration number 10074054 and registered offices at Unit B4C Orbital Retail Park, Thamesdown Drive, Swindon, SN25 4AN; BAT is the parent company and Sole Corporate Member of the subsidiary company, Brunel Education (BE) is a charitable company limited by guarantee with registration number 11991915, registered with the Charities Commission of England Wales (Charity Number 1214820) and with registered offices at Unit B4C Orbital Retail Park, Thamesdown Drive, Swindon, SN25 4AN

Tier 1 policies are centrally held policies relating to Education, Governance, People Services, Finance, ICT and Operations and are the direct responsibility of BAT. Tier 1 policies are created by the BAT Central Services Team but adopted and reviewed by the BAT Board.

We are committed to a sustainable future and to improving the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the community. We are dedicated to environmental improvements that foster a sustainable future and lead to social and economical improvements in the communities we operate within.

Amendments to policy		
Date	**Section**	**Amendment**

BRUNEL
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1. Aims and objectives

Our special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy aims to:

- Make sure the schools in our trust fully implement national legislation and guidance regarding pupils with SEND
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEND
- Make sure the SEND policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff

Brunel Trust SEND/Inclusion Principles	
1.	**Building Positive Relationships:** Employees take time to understand each child as an individual, offering tailored support to meet their unique needs.
2.	**Working in partnership:** Engaging families and professional agencies with the shared aim of ensuring the best outcomes for learners.
3.	**Ambitious, Accessible Curriculum:** Curriculums are designed to be both challenging and accessible, ensuring each learner can thrive.
4.	**Quality First Teaching:** Practitioners are skilled in delivering high-quality lessons, with a focus on adapting their teaching to support every learner's growth.
5.	**Targeted and Structured Support:** We offer evidence-based, personalised interventions to ensure every learner makes meaningful progress.
6.	**Encouraging Aspiration:** Every learner is encouraged to reach their full potential, with consistent support and encouragement to achieve their personal goals.
7.	**Celebrating Diverse Successes:** We recognise and celebrate a wide range of achievements, fostering pride in all forms of participation and progress.

2. Vision and values

Our Vision

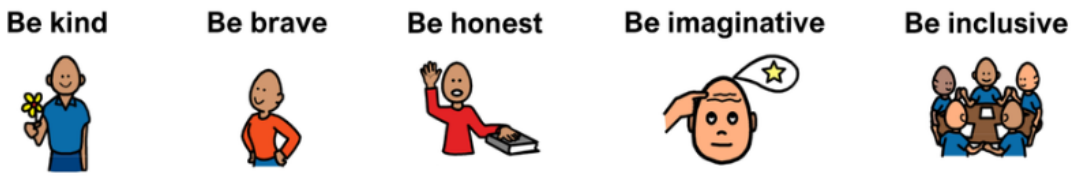
Our vision is to be a creative education community opening doors, opening minds and realising potential.

Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure all our children and young people are given every opportunity to be engaged, inspired and empowered to enable them to flourish and lead safe and successful lives.

Our Values

The Vision and Mission are underpinned by our shared core **values**:



3. Legislation and guidance

This is based on the statutory guidance Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice, Keeping Children Safe in Education and working together to improve school attendance.

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

- Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN co-ordinators (SENCOs) and the special educational needs (SEN) information report
- The Equality Act 2010 (section 20), which sets out schools' duties to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out schools' responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes those with a disability) and those who don't share it
- The academy trust governance guide which sets out governors' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- The School Admissions Code, which sets out schools' obligation to admit all pupils whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and their duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special education needs

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

4. Inclusion and equal opportunities

In our trust we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all pupils, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We are committed to offering all pupils the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations.

We will achieve this by making reasonable adjustments to teaching, the curriculum and the school environment to make sure that pupils with SEND are included in all aspects of school life.

5. Definitions

5.1 Special educational needs

A pupil has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability that 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 most 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.

5.2 Disability

Pupils are considered to have a **disability** if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

All schools in our trust will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

5.3 The 4 areas of need

The needs of pupils with SEND are grouped into 4 broad areas. Pupils can have needs that cut across more than 1 area, and their needs may change over time.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the pupil's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or not understand or use the social rules of communication. Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.

AREA OF NEED	
Cognition and learning	Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers. A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including: • Severe learning difficulties • Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment
Social, emotional and mental health	These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have: • Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder • Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder • Suffered adverse childhood experiences These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.
Sensory and/or physical	Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided. Pupils may have: • A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment • A physical impairment These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The SENCO

The SENCO and Assistant Headteacher of the school, Louise Powell, will:

- Work with the headteacher and SEND Link Governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- Be the point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to make sure that appropriate provision is provided

- Liaise with potential next providers of education to make sure that the pupil and their parents/carers are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned
- When a pupil moves to a different school or institution: Make sure that all relevant information about a pupil's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution, in a timely manner
- Work with the headteacher and governing board to make sure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Make sure the school keeps its records of all pupils with SEND up to date and accurate
- With the headteacher, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- With the headteacher, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy
- With the headteacher and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

6.2 Board of trustees

The governing board is responsible for making sure the following duties are carried out, though the duties can be delegated to a committee or an individual:

- Co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and developing the local offer
- Do all it can to make sure that every pupil with SEND gets the support they need
- Make sure that pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who don't have SEND
- Inform parents/carers when their child's school is making special educational provision for the child
- Make sure that arrangements are in place in our schools to support any pupils with medical conditions
- Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- Have a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND
- Provide an annual report for parents/carers on their child's progress
- Record accurately and keep up to date records of the provision made for pupils with SEND
- Publish information on each school's website about how the schools are implementing their SEND policy, in an SEN information report
- Publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and our schools' accessibility plans
- Make sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENCO for each school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out, and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out

- Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND
- Uplands School - Make sure that all pupils from year 8 until year 14 are provided with independent careers advice

6.3 The SEND Link Governor

The schools' SEND Link governor is Victoria Selby – vselby@brunelsenmat.onmicrosoft.com

The SEND Link Governor will:

- Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at local governing body meetings
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within each school and update the board on this
- Work with the headteacher and SENCO to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in each school.

6.4 The Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Work with the SENCO and SEND Link Governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school
- Work with the SEND Link Governor to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for pupils with SEND in the school, and their progress
- Have responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEND budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual pupils
- Make sure that the SENCO has enough time to carry out their duties
- Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of pupils on the SEND register
- Advise the LA when an EHC plan needs an early review
- With the SENCO, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- With the SENCO, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- With the SENCO and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

6.5 Class teachers

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is differentiated to meet pupil needs through a graduated approach
- 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 consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- Working with the SENCO to review each pupil's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision

- Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report
- Communicating with parents/carers regularly to:
    - Set clear outcomes and review progress towards them
    - Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set outcomes
    - Identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school
    - Listen to the parents'/carers' concerns and agree their aspirations for the pupil

6.6 Parents or carers

Parents or carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development.

Parents or carers will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. They will be:

- Invited to attend twice yearly parents' evenings to review the provision that is in place for their child
- Given the opportunity to share their concerns and, with school staff, agree their aspirations for the pupil through the EHCP annual review process.

The school will take into account the views of the parents or carers in any decisions made about the pupil.

6.7 The pupil

Pupils will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support, where appropriate. This might involve the pupil:

- Explaining what their strengths and difficulties are
- Contributing to setting targets or outcomes
- Attending review meetings
- Giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions

The pupil's views will be taken into account in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.

7. SEN information report

Both Brimble Hill and Uplands Schools have an annually updated SEN information report on their website, which sets out how the SEN policy is implemented within the schools.

This includes more detailed information about the curriculum in the schools, how progress in measured, as well as topics such as support for transitions.

9. Attendance

Many pupils with SEND face complex barriers to attendance. Their right to an education is the same as any other pupil and therefore the attendance ambition for these pupils is the same as it is for any other pupil. However, they may need additional support.

Our approach to supporting pupils who are absent from school due to their SEND is set out in our attendance policy.

10. Safeguarding

We recognise that pupils with SEND can face additional safeguarding challenges. Children with disabilities are more likely to be abused than their peers and additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse, exploitation and neglect in this group.

For more details of the pastoral support we offer pupils with SEND, and the support we provide to help pupils overcome any communication barriers they face, see our safeguarding/child protection policy.

11. Expertise and training of staff

Across both Brimble Hill and Uplands School, the Senior Leadership Team including the SENCO will continuously monitor to identify any staff in their school who have specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.

12. Links with external professional agencies

The trust recognises that we won't be able to meet all the needs of every pupil. Whenever necessary, our schools will work with external support services such as:

- Specialist advisory teachers or support services
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- General practitioners or paediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Education welfare officers
- Social services
- Alternative providers such as BEST, Connex

13. Admission and accessibility arrangements

13.1 Admission arrangements

All pupils admitted to Uplands School have an EHCP. Pupils will be admitted in line with the school's admissions' policy. The school is aware of the statutory requirements of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act and will meet the Act's requirements.

The school will use their transition meetings to work closely with parents to ascertain the level of support their child will require on entry and ensure that a plan of support is in place when they enter school.

13.2 Accessibility arrangements

To ensure access for pupils or parents the school has an Equality Policy (See Brunel's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Uplands School Accessibility Plan)

14. Complaints about SEND provision

Where parents/carers have concerns about the SEND provision at our schools, they should first raise their concerns informally with the class teacher or SENCO. We will try to resolve the complaint

informally in the first instance. If this does not resolve their concerns, parents/carers are welcome to submit their complaint formally.

To see a full explanation of suitable avenues for complaint, see pages 246 and 247 of the SEN Code of Practice.

If you feel that our school has discriminated against your child because of their SEN, you have the right to make a discrimination claim to the first-tier SEND tribunal. To find out how to make such a claim, you should visit: https://www.gov.uk/complain-about-school/disability-discrimination

You can make a claim about alleged discrimination regarding:

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

Before going to a SEND tribunal, you can go through processes called disagreement resolution or mediation, where you try to resolve your disagreement before it reaches the tribunal.

15. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

15.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND policy. We will do this by evaluating whether or not we are meeting our objectives set out in section 1.

We will evaluate how effective our SEND provision is with regards to:

- All staff's awareness of pupils with SEND at the start of the autumn term
- How early pupils are identified as having SEND
- Pupils' progress and attainment once they have been identified as having SEND
- Whether pupils with SEND feel safe, valued and included in the school community
- Comments and feedback from pupils and their parents/carers

15.2 Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by the SENCO and Headteacher **every year**. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

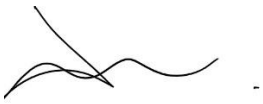
It will be approved by the SEND Link Governor.

16. Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to the following documents:

- SEN information report
- The local offer
- Accessibility plan
- Equality information and objectives
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Attendance policy
- Safeguarding / child protection policy
- Complaints policy

This policy is adopted by the BAT Board of Trustees and will be reviewed every year or earlier if change to legislation.

Signed:  CEO

Signed: Chairman of BAT Board of Trustees

Date: 5.1.26

This policy is adopted by Brimble Hill and Uplands Schools (part of the Brunel Academies Trust) and will be reviewed every year or earlier if change to legislation.

Signed: Headteacher

Signed: SEND Inclusion Lead

Date: 14.9.26