

SEND Policy



Lealands
High School

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Issue Date: January 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

Lealands High School policies are designed to support the school ethos, aims and vision. Lealands is a positive learning community which is fully inclusive to ensure equality of opportunity for all.

Our aims are outlined in our Home School Agreement.

Our aims:

Excellence in everything we do

- Everyone achieves success and makes excellent progress
- We all continually improve what we do and work hard
- We care about being the best we can be and getting the best out of those around us

Everyone has responsibility

- To prepare young people for life and a positive future
- To ensure that school is a safe place
- To help and support others to grow and succeed

Respect for all

- Everyone is valued for their contribution
- All are cared for and supported so that needs are met
- We recognise and celebrate the talents, gifts and uniqueness of every individual

In order to achieve these aims students, parents and the school need to work in partnership.

Our vision is to be:

*Everyone **achieves excellence**, demonstrates **respect** for all and takes **responsibility** for their own actions, while helping others to be successful.*

We strive to achieve this vision in all that we do and staff, students, parents, governors, other school stakeholders and partners are all an important part of making this happen.

Compliance

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice (2015) and has been written with the reference to the following guidance and documents

- SEND Code of Practise 0 – 25 (January 2015)
- School Admissions Code of Practice
- The statutory guidance on supporting students at school with medical conditions (August 2017 update)
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teachers Standards, (2021 Update)
- Public Sector Equality Duty

Assistant Head Teacher – SENCO, Jeff Hall, is the person responsible for managing SEND support at Lealands High School. Jeff Hall is a member of Lealands High School Senior Leadership Team and successfully completed the National Award for SEN Coordination in November, 2013. If you are required to contact Jeff Hall, please use the school contact details below.

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2. RATIONALE

2.1 This policy aims to promote the successful inclusion of students with special educational needs and disabilities at Lealands High School. At Lealands High School, we are committed to offering an inclusive curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all of our students whatever their needs or abilities. Not all students with disabilities have SEND and not all students with SEND meet the definition of disability but this policy covers all of these students.

2.2 Inclusion is seen to involve the identification and minimising of barriers to learning and participation and the maximising of resources to support learning participation.

2.3 At Lealands High School, we use the definition for SEN and for disability from the SEND Code of Practice (2015 (Updated September 2024)). This states:

SEN: 'A child or young person has special educational needs if she or he has a learning disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him/her. A learning difficulty or disability is a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others at the same age. Special educational provision means educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from that made generally for others of the same age in a mainstream setting in England'.

Disability: 'Many children and young people who have SEN may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 –that is 'a physical or mental impairment which has a long term substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. ' This definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.'

2.4 As outlined in our school's vision we intend that:

'Everyone achieves excellence, demonstrates respect for all and takes responsibility for their own actions while helping others to be successful.'

We, therefore, support the statement in the Code of Practice 2024 that 'a child with special educational needs should have their needs identified and appropriate support should be provided'.

2.5 Within the SEND Code of Practice (2024), special educational needs are identified under the categories of:

2.5.1 Communication and Interaction.

2.5.2 Cognition and Learning.

2.5.3 Social, emotional and mental health.

2.5.4 Sensory and/or Physical.

Some students may have needs in more than one area.

2.6 In addition, students may have factors that impact on progress and attainment that are not identified as a special educational need. These factors are taken into consideration when planning educational provision for all students. These factors include:

2.6.1 Attendance and Punctuality

2.6.2 Health and Welfare

2.6.3 English as an additional language (EAL)

2.6.4 Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant

2.6.5 Being a Looked After Child

2.6.6 Being the child of a Serviceman/Women

3. BROAD GOALS

The specific objectives of our SEND policy are as follows:

- 3.1 To identify students with special educational needs and disabilities and ensure that their needs are met.
- 3.2 To ensure that students with special educational needs and disabilities are engaged in all the activities of the school.
- 3.3 To ensure that all learners make the best possible progress.
- 3.4 To ensure parents and carers are informed of their child's special educational needs and that there is effective communication between parents / carers and school.
- 3.5 To ensure that students express their views and are fully involved in decisions which affect their education.
- 3.6 To promote effective partnership and involve outside agencies when appropriate.

4. SEND SUPPORT

4.1 Access for Students with SEND at Lealands High School, we offer students a broad and balanced curriculum through adapted planning. If a child is identified as having SEND needs, one or more of the following strategies is adopted:

4.1.1 Adapted teaching strategies following strategies outlined on SEND students' Information Document (Teacher guidance document completed by Student Support staff, students and parents/carers outlining students' needs and support strategies for staff to implement).

4.1.2 In-class support from LSAs allocated to students or classes

4.1.3 Withdrawal of individuals and small groups to work on specific areas of need

4.1.4 Continuous monitoring and assessment of students' academic and social progress

4.1.5 Use of specialist equipment following advice from external professionals

4.1.6 Support from external agencies working in partnership with school staff and parents/ carers

4.1.7 Support with extended learning as part of the school our extra-curricular offer

4.2 Criteria for Evaluating Success of Provision

Monitoring and evaluation of individual students' progress will measure the success of the practice of this policy. On-going tracking of student progress is completed with all support strategies' impact monitored and reviewed. An annual self-evaluation process is undertaken assessing the successes of the provision and identifying areas for continued development.

4.3 We aim for successful provision which enables progress that:

4.3.1 Closes the attainment gap between the students and their peers

4.3.2 Prevents the attainment gap growing wider

4.3.3 Is similar to that of peers starting from the same attainment base line

4.3.4 Matches or betters the child's previous rate of progress

4.3.5 Ensures access to an appropriate adapted curriculum

4.3.6 Demonstrates an improvement in independence, social and or personal skills

4.4 In order to ensure that all students receive a well-planned and suitable provision we:

4.4.1 Screen all Year 7 students and new students on admission to Lealands using standardised tests and methodologies

- 4.4.2 Ensure early identification of students with SEND and monitor the impact of any interventions on their progress
- 4.4.3 Provide children with full access to the whole curriculum (where appropriate), including the National Curriculum
- 4.4.4 Actively work with parents/carers and involve them with every aspect of their child's development, where appropriate
- 4.4.5 Provide appropriate personalised support and resources
- 4.4.6 Provide a challenging and stimulating learning environment for all, regardless of their special educational need and/or disability.
- 4.4.7 Enable individual students to participate in the decision making process
- 4.4.8 Provide support and advice for all staff working with students who are identified as being diagnosed with special educational needs or a disability

5. A GRADUATED APPROACH TO SEND PROVISION

- 5.1 The SEND Co-ordinator (SENCO), in collaboration with the Head Teacher and Governing Body, plays a key role in helping to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school to raise the achievements of students with SEND
- 5.2 Admission Arrangements for Students with SEND
 - 5.2.1 The school ensures that students with SEND are admitted on an equal basis with others in accordance with its Admissions Policy. These arrangements will not differ from those of other students unless there is a medical condition needing special facilities. In this case, there will be prior consultation between parents, school staff, the Local Authority (LA) and the Health Authority. In some cases, students may require support on admission e.g. students with EAL will be provided with a personalised curriculum to meet their individual needs.
 - 5.2.2 For children with an EHCP, parents and carers have the right to request a particular school and the local authority must comply with that preference and name the school in the EHCP, unless it would be unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEND of the student, or the attendance of the student there would be incompatible with the efficient education of other students, or the efficient use of resources. Before making the decision to name our school in a child's EHCP, the local authority will send the Head Teacher a copy of the EHCP and we will then consider their comments very carefully before a final decision on placement is made. In addition, the local authority must also seek the agreement of school where the draft EHCP sets out any provision to be delivered on their premises that has been secured through a direct payment (personal budget). Parents of a child with an EHCP also have the right to seek a place at a specialist academy/school if they consider that their child's needs can be better met in specialist provision.
 - 5.2.3 In order to support transition from year 6 to year 7, a number of strategies are in place to support students such as meetings and visits in both the primary school setting and at Lealands High School.

Prior to entry, for identified SEND students, there are personalised individual or small group visits during the summer term. Parents and carers are invited to a meeting at the school and

are provided with a range of information to support them in enabling their child to settle into the school routine. Through discussion with the feeder primaries, targeted students are identified and a planned induction programme is delivered in the summer term to support transfer for students starting school in September. If it is deemed necessary, a member of staff from the transition team meets with new parents and carers of students who are known to have SEND. This enables any concerns to be raised and solutions to any perceived challenges to be planned prior to admission. For students with significant and complex difficulties, careful transition planning begins up to a year in advance of transfer. Where possible, a member of the Student Support leadership group attend the Year 6 Annual Reviews of students with an EHCP where Lealands has been named as the chosen school. If students are transferring from another setting mid-year, the previous school records will be requested immediately and a meeting set up with parents or carers and relevant professionals to plan strategies to support the student and to identify and reduce the impact of any barriers to learning.

5.3 Admission Assessments

As well as analysing any information received from primary schools, all Year 7 students complete Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATs) and reading assessments in the first few weeks of Year 7 to assess potential ability and their current level of attainment. If a student joins the school on an 'In Year Transfer' from another school, these assessments are completed as part of the transfer process.

5.4 Quality First Teaching

All teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress of all students in their class, including where students access support from Learning Support Assistants or specialist staff. Adaptive quality first teaching for individual students is the first step in meeting students' needs who have identified SEND. To ensure students are receiving quality first teaching, all teachers follow a personalised CPD programme to develop their practice. Teachers are held to account through a rigorous appraisal system that sets challenging, fair targets for quality of teaching and student progress. These areas are monitored termly to ensure students are receiving consistent quality first teaching. In addition to teacher assessments, all Year 7 and 8 students complete termly reading monitor progress and identify students who fail to make adequate progress. All Year 9 and 10 students complete reading assessments during the academic year to monitor progress.

5.5 Targeted Personalised Support

If concerns arise regarding a student's progress and they are not yet diagnosed with a SEND, an in school assessment is completed by the Student Support leadership team, Year Team, subject teachers and parents / carers. Support strategies are agreed and implemented. Intervention strategies are implemented with an identified review date. On-going progress is monitored and the intervention strategies are adjusted accordingly. These students are recorded as part of the 'Monitoring' cohort on the Student Support register.

5.6 Student Support

If, despite intervention being in place, progress is unsatisfactory and concerns continue, a referral will be made to an appropriate outside agency partner. The SENCO or Assistant

SENCO request parent / carer permission to seek support and advice from the appropriate external agency. Following the referral and the assessment being completed, a report will be produced with the possibility of a formal diagnosis suggesting support strategies for the SENCO to share with school and parents/carers to support the student at school and at home.

This support may take the form of:

- 5.6.1 Advice on teaching strategies, classroom management or classroom resource materials
- 5.6.2 Adaptation of the curriculum and resources to support students with SEND
- 5.6.3 Identification, observation and assessment of students' Special Educational Needs or disabilities and subsequent advice
- 5.6.4 Practical support for subject teachers
- 5.6.5 Professional development of teachers working with students with SEND
- 5.6.6 Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) provision
- 5.6.8 Signposting to other outside agencies to investigate the student's needs further

If a formal diagnosis is made, a student will be noted as 'Known' and will be added to the school Student Support Register.

If a decision is made to request the LA to make a formal assessment for an EHCP, the SENCO collates all relevant paperwork, including reports, assessments, examples of the student's work, with and without support, Inclusion Passports, views of both parent and the child and records of communication with professionals and parents.

This information is then submitted to the SEND Moderation Group at the Local Authority (LA) who considers the request for Statutory Assessment. If refused, the school is given reasons and advice about the best way forward at a moderation meeting with the LA staff, the parents / carers and school staff. If statutory assessment is initiated, the LA conducts the process in close collaboration with parents / carers, the school and other agencies involved.

- 5.8 Following an EHCP assessment being completed and successfully accepted by the Local Authority SEND moderation Group, an EHCP document is written. The Statutory Provision Assessment Group (SPAG) is a multi-professional team which then agree the proposed EHCP which is then sent to the student's parents and school for consultation. If agreed, the EHCP is then finalised and the recommended provision is reviewed annually. At this point, the student is noted on the Student Support register as 'E' (For further information, please refer to the SEN Code of Practice (2015 Chapter 9.)

5.9 Provision for children's well-being

The school offers a wide variety of pastoral support for students. These include:

- 5.9.1 An evaluated Religion and Society curriculum that aims to provide students with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to enhance their emotional and social

knowledge and well-being. Please visit our website to see the topics that are included within this area of the curriculum

- 5.9.2 Student and parent / carer voice mechanisms are in place and are monitored for effectiveness as part of the school monitoring system
- 5.9.3 In class and out of class social and emotional support with students in school
- 5.9.4 Small group and individual targeted interventions to improve students' social skills, communication skills, emotional resilience and well-being using school staff expertise and support from external agency professionals
- 5.9.5 A Local Authority funded and led on site provision (Compass) is available to refer students to who are demonstrating significant mental health needs and are unable to attend school on a regular basis.

5.10 Extra Curricular Provision

All children are entitled to full and equitable access to the National Curriculum. The school provides a range of extra-curricular activities, details of which can found on the school website. All students, including those with SEND are encouraged to attend. There is also a breakfast club and extended learning club staffed by Learning Support Assistants. When required, risk assessments are carried out and procedures are put in place to enable students with SEND to participate in appropriate school activities. The school strives to ensure it has sufficient staff expertise so students with SEND are not excluded from any school provided activities wherever possible.

5.11 Preparing for Transfer after High School

The school has in place a careers programme that is delivered to year 7 to year 11. Additionally, the school has a careers lead to provide more expert and independent advice for all students from year 8 to year 11.

In order to enable the successful transition from high school for students with significant needs, careful preparations are made by school staff in partnership with parents, LA support staff, the student and the Colleges of Further Education. A detailed transition plan is agreed and implemented during years 10 and 11.

Parents may like to use the website of the National Careers service that offers information and professional advice about education, training and work to people of all ages which sets out details of SEND provision

– including the full range of post-16 options – and support available to children and young people with SEN and disabilities to help them prepare for adulthood, including getting a job.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

Where a student has an EHCP, all reviews and plans from year 9 onwards will include a focus on preparing for adulthood, including employment, independent living and participation in society.

5.12 Complaints Procedure

The school endeavours to maintain close working relationships with parents /carers at all times. If any stakeholder wishes to make a complaint, they should refer to the whole school complaints procedure available on the school website or by request from the school office.

5.13 Allocation of Resources

The LA allocates financial resources to the school. The budget is allocated based upon deprivation funding and prior attainment funding, Pupil Premium funding, Catch up Funding and the numbers of students on roll, as well as EHCP allocation.

The major part of the funding allocation is used to employ the SENCO, Assistant SENCO, EAL coordinator and Learning Support Assistants (LSAs), who support students within class, lead small group intervention and to provide learning resources. Students may be withdrawn from lessons for short periods of time to work on specific areas of need using these resources. The SENCO maintains a central store of SEND support resources which are available to all members of staff to use to support students' learning.

5.13.1 Class/subject teachers are responsible for the progress and development of all the students in their class. Quality first teaching, adapted for individual students, is the first step in meeting the needs of any student who has or may have special educational needs. Students with a disability will be provided with reasonable adjustments to overcome any disadvantage experienced in the school and increase their access to the taught curriculum. The quality of classroom teaching provided to students with SEND is monitored through a number of processes that include:

- 5.13.2 Classroom observation by the senior leadership team and / or line manager;
- 5.13.3 On-going assessment of progress made by students with SEND;
- 5.13.4 Work sampling and scrutiny of planning to ensure effective matching of work to student need;
- 5.13.5 Teacher meetings with the SENCO or Assistant SENCO to provide advice and guidance on meeting the needs of students with SEND;
- 5.13.6 Student and parent feedback on the quality and effectiveness of interventions provided;
- 5.13.7 Attendance and behaviour records;
- 5.13.8 Regular monitoring of teacher assessments of students' progress and analysis of tests and exams

All SEND students have individual targeted outcomes that are set in line with national outcomes to ensure ambition. Parents and carers are informed of these via the reporting system and also at events such as Parents' Evenings. Student's attainments are tracked using the whole school tracking system. Additional action to increase the rate of progress will then be identified and recorded that will include a review of the impact of the adapted teaching being provided to the child, and if required, provision to the teacher of additional strategies to further support the success of the student.

Where it is decided during this early discussion that special educational provision is required to support increased progress, parents / carers will be informed that the school considers their child may require SEND support and their partnership sought in order to improve attainments.

5.14 Managing students coming off the register

As part of the on-going review of students' progress, students may overcome their SEND. If this is the case, these students will be removed from the Student Support Register. The criteria for students are noted as:

- 5.14.1 A student's social and/or emotional skills have improved and are no longer having a significant negative impact on their own or others' learning
- 5.14.2 A student's mental health has improved and is no longer a barrier to learning
- 5.14.3 Sensory and / or physical disabilities are no longer a barrier to learning or require significant adjustments to be made
- 5.14.4 A previous diagnosis by a medical or appropriate professional person has changed/been withdrawn
- 5.14.5 Learning and development has improved so that progress it is now in-line with age related expectations
- 5.14.6 Rapid progress in learning has taken place so that the child is now progressing more quickly than the average child and rapidly catching up with his/her peers without additional input/support
- 5.14.7 As a result of the improvements above, students are now making progress at the expected rate or better and attainment is in line with the national average

Students who have been removed from the Student Support register progress will continue to be monitored on a termly basis to ensure good progress continues. These students are coded as M (Monitoring).

6. Supporting Parents and Carers

- 6.1 Lealands High School values parents and carers as partners in the development and education of their children. For students identified as SEND, Student Profiles will be written by school staff in partnership with the students and the parent / carer and then shared with parents for consultation. Parental involvement is especially important for children with social and emotional difficulties. The school will make all possible effort to involve both the parents/carers and the child in the setting of appropriate strategies to be implemented to support students' needs. Students are encouraged to be involved in target setting, according to their level of understanding. They will thus be more involved in the review of SEND Information Document and in celebrating the success of positive progress. To support parents / carers, the LA has a Special Educational Needs and Disability Advice, Information and Support Service (SENDIASS). The purpose of this team is to be able to give independent advice and support to parents /carers. If parents / carers require independent support or advice, they are able to contact the Luton SENDIAS team at <https://sendiasluton.co.uk/>
- 6.2 Attainment and progress towards the identified outcomes will be shared with parents termly through feedback and also through the school reporting system and Parents' Evenings. Parents are encouraged to arrange an appointment to discuss their child's progress with the class/subject teacher, the SENCO or Assistant SENCO or a member of senior leadership team (SLT) at any time when they feel concerned or have information they feel they would like to share that could impact on their child's success.
- 6.3 For information on how to support students, please visit the school website. It can be found at www.lealands.luton.sch.uk and includes links to other websites and resources that we have found useful in supporting parents to help their child learn at home. This is where

Lealands SEND information report is located with a link to Luton Authority's local offer information can be found.

7 SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

- 7.1 The school recognises that students with medical conditions should be properly supported so they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Some children with medical needs may be disabled and where this is the case the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- 7.2 Some may also have SEND and may have an EHCP which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational needs provision and the SEND Code of Practice 2024
- 7.3 Students with more serious medical needs will be provided with a detailed Health Care Plan, compiled in partnership with the school nurse/medical services, parents/carers and if appropriate, the student themselves.
- 7.4 Staff who administer and supervise medications will complete formal training and be verified by the training provider as being competent.
- 7.5 All medicine administration procedures adhere to the LA policy and Department of Education (DfE) guidelines included within 'Supporting Students in Schools with Medical Conditions' (DfE) 2017.
- 7.6 All staff are made aware of students' medical needs. A central register is kept by the school medical officer and is regularly updated and shared with all staff when a student's circumstances change.
- 7.7 Further details can be found in the medical policy.

8 TRAINING

- 8.1 The training needs of staff, including support staff, are regularly reviewed and planned for so that all staff are well equipped to meet the needs of the most common barriers to learning.
- 8.2 All teaching and support staff undertake induction training when taking up their post. This includes meeting with the SENCO or Assistant SENCO to explain the systems and structures in place around the school's SEND provision and practice, and to discuss the needs of individual students.
- 8.3 Enhanced training is provided where students present with rarer difficulties. Training and support is available from specialist teachers or therapists.
 - 8.3.1 External Agency specialists such as a Speech and Language Therapist or Educational Psychologist, will provide training and advice where necessary.
 - 8.3.2 The SENCO regularly attends the Local Authority SENCO forums and in order to keep up to date with local and national updates in SEND.

9. Monitoring and evaluation of SEND provision.

Monitoring and Evaluation of SEND provision forms an essential part of whole school monitoring, evaluation and review. An annual self-evaluation is completed by the SENCO and Leadership team and forms part of the school SEND student progress reviews, observations of teaching and learning, learning walks, book trawls and sampling of parent, student and staff views. The SEND Governor makes regular visits and reports to the governing body.

10. Roles and responsibilities

- 10.1 The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for SEND at Lealands High School. The Head Teacher delegates responsibility to the SENCO, and subject teachers but is still responsible for ensuring that all students' needs are met and they make the best possible progress. The Head Teacher makes sure that the Governing Body is kept up to date about all issues in the school relating to SEND.
- 10.2 The Deputy Head teacher is responsible for Safeguarding in the school.
- 10.3 The SENCO:
 - 10.3.1 Is responsible for identifying student needs accurately and ensuring support is targeted efficiently and effectively.
 - 10.3.2 Is responsible for the maintenance of and updating the school's Student Support Register
 - 10.3.3 Works with subject areas/departments to develop resources and/or deliver CPD to support students' learning so that students are achieving in line with national expectations and in line with their ability.
 - 10.3.4 Establishes systems that ensure statutory requirements are met for SEND under the SEND Code of Practice.
 - 10.3.5 Is responsible for deploying staff and resources according to the needs of the students.
 - 10.3.6 Is responsible for reporting to the Governing Body on progress and developments.
 - 10.3.7 Is responsible for agreeing a programme of professional development with the school Leadership Team that will ensure all staff have the knowledge skills and understanding to support those students with SEND.
 - 10.3.8 Is responsible for engaging parents and carers to be actively involved in working with the school to support their child's academic and social progress, through consistent and regular communication and full involvement in the systems in place for self-evaluation and review.
- 10.4 The school Medical Officer is the member of staff responsible for managing the medical needs of students.
- 10.5 The role of the SEND Governor is to hold the Head Teacher and the SENCO to account for the provision in place and the attainment and progress of students with SEND and to review the SEND policy and I information report annually.

10.6 Learning Support Assistants at Lealands High School are classroom-based practitioners. They are primarily linked to students with EHCPs but do work with many students in lessons and in small groups. Learning Support Assistants are directly line-managed by the LSA Team Leader, who is in turn managed by the Assistant SENCo line managed by the SENCO.

11. STORING AND MANAGING DATA

Please refer to whole school data protection policy.

12. ACCESSIBILITY

Our Accessibility Plan (statutory requirement) describes the actions the school plans to take to increase access to the environment, the curriculum and to printed information. This is available on the school website.

13. COMPLAINTS

For complaints, please contact the SENCO in the first instance. The SENCO will deal with the matter or refer it to the appropriate person. Should the parent / carer not be happy with the outcome of the complaint, the complaint should be put in writing and addressed to the Head Teacher. Please refer to the School's Complaints Policy.