



POLICY: SEND Policy

STATUTORY: Yes

DATE AGREED: May 2026

REVIEW DATE: October 2026

RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF STAFF: A Osbourn and
H Newnes-Ward

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE: Full Trustee Board

SIGNED HEADTEACHER: J Holmes

SIGNED CHAIR OF TRUSTEES: M Clayton

Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

Our Special Educational Need and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCO) is Mrs Newnes-Ward, SENDCO@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk, and she is responsible for all children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) at JMHS. She is a member of the senior leadership team.

Aim

We are a fully inclusive comprehensive school which ensures that all students can achieve their potential academically, personally, socially and emotionally regardless of their gender, ethnicity, social background, religion, sexual identity, physical ability or educational needs. At JMHS we aim to provide a personalised approach to learning with the relevant support and adjustments made to learning that will maximise your child's progress both within and outside of the classroom.

Objectives

1. To ensure that the needs of students with SEND are identified, assessed, provided for and regularly reviewed to allow them to maximise their achievements.
2. To ensure that all students with SEND are offered full access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.
3. To work in partnership with parents/carers and to take the views and wishes of the student into account.
4. To provide a SENDCO who will work within the SEND policy and within the guidance provided in the [SEND Code of practice](#).
5. To provide support and advice for all staff working with students with special educational needs.

Identifying Special Educational Needs

The School's core curriculum is inclusive and differentiated and thereby allows most students to achieve their potential with scaffolded support, i.e. the curriculum is based on the teaching principles of high-quality teaching by:

- Setting accessible learning challenges for all;
- Responding to students' individual learning needs;
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning.

A student has SEND where their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to students of the same age. Making higher quality teaching normally available to the whole class is likely to mean that fewer pupils will require such support. (Code of Practice 6.15). A process of identification, assessment and provision in accordance with the Code of Practice has been established. The four broad areas of special education needs, as set out in the SEND Code of Practice, are:

- **Communication and interaction** - Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. Children and young people with ASD, including Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others.
- **Cognition and learning** – Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment. Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.
- **Social, emotional and mental health difficulties** - These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These

behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.

- **Sensory and/or physical needs** - Some children and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. Many children and young people with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning, or habilitation support. Some children and young people with a physical disability (PD) require additional ongoing support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

It is important to recognise that there are many factors that can impact on progress and attainment that are not SEND, such as:

- Attendance and punctuality
- Health and Welfare
- English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant
- Being a Looked After Child
- Being a child of Servicemen/women

The Graduated Approach to SEND Support

The first response to less than expected progress is through our subject teachers delivering excellent targeted classroom teaching – or high-quality teaching. This means that:

- The teacher has the highest possible expectations all students in their class.
- All teaching is based on building on what the student already knows, can do and can understand.
- Different ways of teaching are in place so that the student is fully involved in learning in class.
- Specific strategies (which may be suggested by the SENDCO or outside staff) are in place to support the student to learn.
- The student's teacher will have carefully checked the student's progress and will have decided that the student has gaps in their understanding/learning and needs some extra support to help them make the best possible progress.

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the students in their class, including where students access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff. High quality teaching, scaffolded for individual students is the first step in responding to students who may or may not have SEND. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of high-quality teaching. Our school regularly reviews the quality of teaching as detailed in our Curriculum, Assessment and Teaching policy. Teachers are supported with their knowledge of the most frequent SEND encountered and suitable strategies to support individual students are disseminated through regular training sessions and student needs profiles, which are regularly reviewed.

Where a student is identified as having SEND, action will be taken to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This SEN support will take the form of a four-part cycle through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the student's needs and what supports the student in making good progress and securing good outcomes. This is known as the 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' graduated response. This graduated response is detailed below:

- **Access** – All information about the student is gathered from the teacher, parent, student and relevant professionals to identify the areas of need.
- **Plan** – Relevant outcomes are set and suitable provision is put in place in consultation with the parent, student, class teacher and any professionals involved. Student Needs Profiles are created/amended to reflect newly identified needs and planned provision.
- **Do** – Class teachers modify their teaching to incorporate the students' needs, plus any intervention or support is planned and carried out.
- **Review** – Student progress is reviewed regularly through whole school monitoring systems and via intervention progress summaries. Formal reviews of Education and Health Care Plans (EHC plans) are on an annual basis in line with statutory guidance in the SEND Code of Practice.

Managing students' needs on the SEND register

Students are initially placed on the SEND register at SEND Support, K, and follow the graduated response detailed above. Full details of provision can be found in our SEND Information Report, available on our website. The SEND register is regularly reviewed by the SENDCO using information from the graduated response detailed above and progress data as part of the whole school monitoring systems. Inclusion on the register is fluid and fully communicated with parents/carers. Each cycle of the graduated response will lead to one of the following outcomes:

- A student is removed from the SEND register (see below)
- A change of provision within school is made as progress is still not sufficient
- Referrals to external professionals are made to support the individual as more specialist support is required.
- An application for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan is made to the Local Authority due to continued lack of progress, after all suitable provision by the school and external agencies has been made.

How will parents/carers be involved and supported with their child's learning and progress?

All parents/carers of students on the SEND register are contacted at least once every school year and invited to meet with an appropriate member of staff, such as the SENDCO, Year Leader, or member of the SEND team. The subject teachers or SENDCO may suggest ways of supporting your child's learning. All interventions and support are discussed with parents/carers and outcomes are reviewed and shared.

Involving young people with SEND

Students with EHC plans are involved in all aspects of their support and provision through attending meetings, producing Student Needs cards and regular mentoring. All SEND students have a review of their progress at regular intervals with a member of the SEND team.

Criteria for exiting the SEND register

If a student makes sufficient sustained progress, as evidenced through whole school monitoring systems, assessment records and feedback from teachers, then the student is removed from the SEND register. Parents/carers and students are informed of this move. Support is still provided through high quality teaching and a student needs profile, if appropriate.

Admission Arrangements:

The Academy Trust will ensure that students with SEND are admitted on an equal basis with others in accordance with its admissions policy.

Supporting students with medical conditions

The school recognises that students at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Some students

with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010. The schools Supporting Students with Medical Needs policy for can be found on our website.

Some students may also have a special educational need and may have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision and the SEND Code of Practice is followed.

Accessing the school site

Our aim is to ensure that all students who attend JMHS are catered for appropriately. We have all safeguarding procedures and risk assessments in place and these are adhered to by staff.

Further information is available in our Accessibility plan which can be found on our website but we would be happy to discuss individual circumstances with parents/carers.

Monitoring and evaluation of SEND

The school is committed to regular and systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of its work. In this respect, the governing body reports annually to the parents/carers upon the quality of education provided for and the achievements of students with SEND. Student attainment is tracked using whole school tracking systems and those failing to make expected levels of progress are identified very quickly. SEND progress and attainment is part of the whole school development plan, which is reviewed each year. Annual reviews of SEND provision take place with a focus on teaching and learning, student voice and effectiveness of intervention programs. The school employs a range of methods to gather data for analysis.

The SEND team and SLT use Progress8 and internal data to check the effectiveness of interventions and individual progress of all students with SEND. The Teaching and Learning Committee of the Governing Body receives appropriate data on SEND practice and its impact. The SEND Trustee makes planned visits to act as a critical friend to the SEND department.

Training and resources

The school's Notional SEND budget and high needs funding for students with an EHCP are used to provide support for children with SEND that is in addition to what is provided for all students, as part of our universal offer. The support that is put in place is dependent on the individual needs of the student. Examples of this are to:

- Fund TAs and HLTAs to provide in class support for students with SEND who are in mixed attainment classes.
- Fund TAs and HLTAs to provide support in The Hub for students with SEND.
- Fund qualified teachers to provide additional classes or small group intervention.
- Provide small group and individual personalised support for targeted students.
- Provide a higher level of supervision for students with SEND at break/lunch.
- Identify and fund ongoing staff training as well as new staff/Initial Teacher Training induction.
- Provide suitable resources for students with SEND.
- Allow access to outside agencies and professionals to aid the identification and support of students with SEND.
- Allow the school's SENDCO to regularly attend the Local Authority's networking meetings and SEND training events in order to keep up to date with local and national updates in SEND.

The role of the SEND Trustee - Our SEND Trustee complies with all of the duties imposed upon them in;

- Part 4 of the Education Act 1996 as amended from time to time;
- The SEND Code of Practice;

They are responsible for ensuring that the necessary support is made for any child who attends the school who has SEND, ensuring the schools SEND policy is up to date and review the progress of students with SEND in line with national policies.

The role of the headteacher - Our headteacher is Dr John Holmes and he is responsible for the day to day management of all aspects of the school, this includes the support for children with SEND. He gives responsibility to the SENDCO and class teachers to support all students with SEND but is still responsible for ensuring that your child's needs are met.

The role of teaching assistants – Our team of teaching assistants support students by delivering targeted intervention and in class support.

Dealing with complaints - JMHS Concerns and Complaints Procedure can be found on our website.

Bullying - SEND students are often more likely to be bullied due to their increased vulnerability. A link to our schools Anti-Bullying information can be find within the School's Behaviour for Learning Policy by visiting our website.

Support services for parents/carers of students with SEND Herefordshire SENDIAS service provides free information, advice and support to parents/carers of children with SEND and to young people with SEND up to the age of 25.

<https://www.hwsendiass.co.uk/>

The Herefordshire Local Offer, which offers information for young people and families with SEN or Disabilities can be accessed [here](#).

References The SEND Code of Practice. This Code of Practice provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations.

Reviewing the SEND Policy

The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Trustees' Curriculum, Teaching and Learning committee.