



Birchwood High School

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy

Ethos

At Birchwood High School, we believe that all students can achieve and make excellent progress, regardless of barriers to learning or special educational needs. Lessons are inclusive and students are taught in mainstream classes where possible and withdrawn only for specialist intervention when necessary. We maintain high expectations of all staff and students and ensure that those students who need additional support are appropriately provided for. Support is reviewed regularly and adjusted to ensure maximum impact. Consistent communication ensures successful working partnerships between staff, students and parents.

Special Educational Needs – a definition

At Birchwood High School, we consider students with special educational needs to be a student who:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of the facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools

(Code of Practice 2015)

We consider that students with special education needs may have a number of different barriers to learning which will sit within the following broad areas of need:

- communication and interaction
- cognition and learning
- social, emotional and mental health
- sensory and / or physical needs

(Code of Practice 2015)

English as an Additional Language is not considered to be a special educational need unless there are specific barriers to learning which are not related to the acquisition of the English language. However,

specialist provision for English as an Additional Language is provided through the Intervention Team and Personalised Learning Centre.

Objectives and Principles

The objective of the Special Educational Needs Policy at Birchwood High School is to provide a full and comprehensive education to all students, including those with special educational needs. We will remove barriers to learning where necessary, enabling students to make rapid and sustained progress.

To achieve this, we will:

- Work within and according to national legislation
- Provide a broad and flexible curriculum which meets the needs of all students appropriate to Birchwood, including those students with special educational needs
- Promote a positive learning culture for all students, including those with special educational needs
- Ensure students with special educational needs are appropriately integrated into mainstream education, both academically and socially
- Ensure teaching staff and support staff provide personalised support where necessary
- Ensure teaching staff and support staff are well informed and that information regarding students with special educational needs is updated regularly
- Provide early intervention to remove barriers to learning
- Encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and progress
- Work in partnership with parents, encouraging a shared approach
- Work in partnership with outside agencies, seeking advice and guidance where necessary
- Maintain a flexible and positive approach
- Aim to maintain the well-being and safety of all students at all times

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Governing Body will ensure the consistent application of the Special Educational Needs Policy. They will also ensure that the Special Educational Needs Policy and SEND Information Report is regularly reviewed and updated in light of new information and legislation
- The Principal will maintain overall responsibility for ensuring that the objectives and principles of the Special Educational Needs Policy are consistently met. The Principal will work alongside the Assistant Principal / SENCo to ensure that provision removes barriers to learning effectively
- The Assistant Principal / SENCo will maintain overall responsibility for the day to day implementation of the Special Educational Needs Policy and SEND Information Report
- The Assistant Principal / SENCo will ensure that teaching staff and support staff are well informed and that appropriate training and support is offered

- The Assistant Principal / SENCo will work alongside students, parents and outside agencies to ensure that information and guidance is regularly reviewed and disseminated
- The Assistant Principal / SENCo will review support and intervention regularly to ensure maximum input and value for money
- Teaching staff will ensure they are aware of the varying needs of the students in their class. They will personalise their approaches in the classroom accordingly
- Teaching staff will ensure that support staff are well informed of classroom expectations, lesson objectives and expected outcomes to ensure that they can offer targeted intervention in the classroom
- Support staff will ensure that they are well informed of possible barriers to learning, lesson objectives and expected outcomes to ensure that they can intervene effectively in the classroom. They will be flexible in their approach, encouraging students to be independent in their learning.

Admissions Arrangements for students with special educational needs

Admission arrangements for students with special educational needs are in line with the school admission arrangements. The Birchwood High School Admissions Policy (Yr7-11) may be found on the school's website.

Admittance to Birchwood High School of students with an Education, Health and Care Plan is agreed providing that a) it is suitable for the age, ability and aptitude or SEN of the child or young person and b) it is compatible with the efficient education of others.

Parents of children with special educational needs are encouraged to liaise with the Assistant Principal / SENCo or a member of the Personalised Learning Team prior to admission. Parents should expect to be well informed of provision at Birchwood High School, aiding them in making the right decision for their child.

Review

The Governing Body will review this policy yearly and at any point where there has been statutory change. The review will take place in consultation with staff, students and parents.

The outcome of the review and changes to policy, resolutions and solutions will be communicated to all those involved and incorporated into an amended Special Educational Needs Policy.

Inter-relationship with other school information

The Special Educational Needs Policy should be viewed alongside the SEND Information Report, which highlights day to day provision and operational matters, and the Hertfordshire Local Offer. The SEN Information Report can be found on the Birchwood High School website. The Hertfordshire Local Offer can be found on the HertsDirect website.