



The Westgate School SEND Information Report
(Reviewed September 2018)

This report is designed to meet the legislative requirements for SEN information reports, which are set out in [schedule 1 of the SEN and Disabilities \(SEND\) Regulations 2014](#) and [paragraphs 6.79-6.81 of the SEND Code of Practice](#).

What types of SEND do we cater for?

At The Westgate School we are committed to giving all of our students every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards and become **#equippedforlife** by taking account of students' varied life experiences and needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and have high expectations for all children, reminding them that **'better never stops'**. We strive to be a fully inclusive school, and actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude students. The achievements, attitudes and wellbeing of all our students matter.

Children are identified as having SEND when they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children the same age, or have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of education facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in schools within the area of the Local Authority (SEND Regulations 2014).

Students at Westgate School have a range of difficulties including Communication and Interaction; Cognition and Learning; Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties and Sensory or Physical difficulties. Within the school we cater for a wide variety of special needs and all students are taught in mainstream classes. We add support into classes rather than removing students from lessons. Where possible, in core subjects and practical subjects, we also provide one smaller class per year group to ensure that those needing additional support for literacy and numeracy can be nurtured to allow them to catch-up so that they can close the gap between them and their peers.

We also have a Resource Base which is capable of catering for up to 15 students with Physical Needs who have an Education Health Care Plan and who are on Band 3 funding or higher; these students are fully integrated into all aspects of the school. The site is fully wheelchair accessible and students are taught in mixed ability groups or set according to their ability, rather than their disability.

What additional support is available to support pupils with SEND with their learning?

Students with SEND can be supported in a number of ways within school and the different strategies, whilst not an exhaustive list, are some of the different ways in which your child may be offered additional support:

Access to an LSA buddy or LSA in class, support with homework and organising equipment, access to external specialists for equipment and assessments, access to a school counsellor, pastoral support, access to physiotherapy and/or occupational therapy and support with aspects of daily living. We also offer specialist SEN interventions in literacy, numeracy, mindfulness, study skills, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, touch typing, handwriting and ASD. Programmes can also be designed by the Educational Psychologist to meet the ever-changing needs of students. Some examples of these courses include 'Understanding your Emotions', 'Developing Resiliency' and 'Learning to Learn'.

In addition to specialist interventions, support is also available after-school to encourage students with SEND to attend extra-curricular activities and revision sessions if they want to attend these.

How do we identify and assess pupils with SEND?

When your child first joins Westgate School, we use information from a range of sources to help identify SEND and other needs. These include information from parents/carers; primary school teachers; end of key stage 2 levels; base line testing; reading age tests; application form information; subject teachers; specialist colleagues and external agencies.

We liaise closely with Primary Schools prior to transition and students are given several opportunities to come to Westgate before starting school in September. The school can be viewed at any time by arranging a mutually convenient appointment; we are always eager to be given the opportunity to show off our school and we encourage prospective parents and students to contact us if they would like to arrange a visit.

Our class teachers, Curriculum Leaders and Directors of Learning closely monitor the progress and attainment of all students, including those who have, or may have, SEND. The continuous monitoring of students during their time with us will further identify pupils with a special educational need. This identification may come from tutors, subject teachers, support colleagues, Directors of Learning, outside agencies, parents/carers or the pupils themselves.

We follow a staged and graduated approach to identifying and assessing needs, using the 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' model. If a child still does not make the expected progress, underpinned by evidence and despite receiving differentiated learning opportunities, parents will be informed and further investigations will be carried out.

All students with SEND are on the SEND register which is accessible to all staff. Staff use this information to inform their lesson planning, teaching and student learning activities. Targeted interventions are planned and delivered where appropriate and this may include small group or individual work across a broad range of activities.

Following the teacher's review of progress, if there are still concerns then parents will be consulted to allow them to be fully involved in the process. If additional support is needed the school may request for external agencies to become involved. Parents are always asked for their consent if the school feels a student would benefit from additional support.

What is our approach to teaching pupils with SEND, and how do we adapt the curriculum and learning environment?

We pride ourselves in giving students opportunities to allow them to become **#equippedforlife**. We provide all students with these opportunities by providing tailored support for each individual child depending on their needs and abilities. We firmly believe that students in a mainstream school should be taught with their peers, therefore we avoid removing students from lessons for support, but instead we opt to put extra staff into classrooms if necessary. The Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) can assist with everything from supporting a student to get from one lesson to the next, breaking-down instructions to allow the child to succeed and helping students to settle down and organise their equipment and record homework.

All teachers are able to cater for a wide range of needs within their lessons through Quality First Teaching (QFT) and can carefully differentiate work to allow all students to reach their potential. Where additional support or specialist differentiation or adaptation is needed, the SENDCo or LSAs can adapt work for the class teacher. The SEND team work closely with teachers, students and external specialists to ensure work is accessible; particularly where students have sensory or physical needs which might otherwise restrict their ability to access the curriculum.

The school learning environment is fully accessible for all students. The school site is fully wheelchair accessible, with the exception of the school gym. We offer break and lunch time support for Physically Impaired (PI) students who may need additional support during unstructured free-time. Other students are welcome to join this provision if they need a quiet place to go during unstructured times but the safety of our PI students is a priority.

For more information, our accessibility plan is available on the school website.

How do we enable pupils with SEND to engage in activities with other pupils who do not have SEND?

Students are taught in mixed-ability groups, or set according to ability; this allows students with SEND to integrate fully with their peers. The culture of the school means that all students are very supportive of each other.

The school has a specially designed minibus with a tail-lift to allow students with Physical Impairments to attend school trips and excursions. We carry out thorough health and safety checks on all venues to ensure they are appropriate for the needs of individual children and wherever possible we will try to ensure that students are fully included in the activities on offer.

We have several LSAs who are able to stay with students after school and we actively encourage students with SEND to attend extracurricular activities and excursions.

How do we consult parents of pupils with SEND and their children, and involve them in their child's education?

We need you to support us and your child by encouraging them to fully engage with their learning and any interventions offered by:

- Helping them to be organised for their day (including bringing the right equipment and books)
- Full attendance and good punctuality
- Completion of homework
- Checking and signing planner
- Attending parents' meetings
- Attending any meetings specifically arranged for your child

We will support you through regular communication, and all students with an EHCP will also have a named LSA buddy who will work with your child and liaise with you regularly.

Students are encouraged to take part in Pupil Voice activities; regularly evaluate their work in lessons; attend review meetings; contribute to target setting and reviewing, and reflect on their learning and achievements by completing documents with their buddy prior to reviews.

How do we assess and review pupils' progress towards their outcomes, and evaluate the effectiveness of SEND provision?

All students, including those with SEND, are assessed on a regular basis, in accordance with the School Assessment Policy.

Teachers formally assess and review progress and attainment several times a year which is communicated to parents/carers by a report that is sent home. Additionally, parents' evenings are held once a year when there is an opportunity to discuss progress, attainment and next steps. The SENDCo is available at parents' evening to discuss the progress of SEND students. Appointments are not necessary but if you would like to book an appointment, you can do this by contacting the school and asking to speak to a member of the SEND team.

Progress and attainment data for students is regularly analysed for effectiveness and value for money allowing for early identification of needs. All staff are actively involved in the analysis of data including Teaching Staff, Tutors, LSAs, Curriculum Leaders, Directors of Learning and the Senior Leadership Team.

How do we support pupils moving between different phases of education and preparing for adulthood?

Students receive individual careers interviews to help them plan for end of key stage transitions and transition to post-16 education. They are provided with support in lessons and in tutor time for CV writing and interview techniques. We have close links with several businesses who will come in and work with students or invite them to their companies for workshops.

For students with SEND we prioritise their end of KS4 careers advice so that they are provided with early advice and support. Each child is provided with an action plan and this is regularly monitored throughout the year.

Students with SEND are advised about appropriate post-16 courses and apprenticeship vacancies and we can arrange to transport children to local colleges for Open Days and to find out more information about the pathways which are available for them.

How do we support pupils with SEND to improve their emotional and social development?

Within school we are fortunate to have a wide range of staff who are able to support our students with their emotional and social development. We have a dedicated pastoral department who are available throughout the day if a child has any worries or concerns. We also have 2 school counsellors who work closely with students who may need additional support, and all our LSAs are trained to support children with social skills development. All staff at Westgate use 'Restorative Justice' when discussing incidents that may have occurred during the day to help children understand the consequences of their decisions, and the impact these decisions have on others.

What expertise and training do our staff have to support pupils with SEND?

All our staff attend regular training sessions on safeguarding, and there is a program of training sessions for all staff to make them aware of different SEND needs and strategies which can be used to support students.

How will we secure specialist expertise, equipment and facilities to support pupils with SEND and their families?

As a school we can access a range of services including Visual and Hearing Impaired Team and Disability Team. These services are contacted when necessary and appropriate, according to your child's needs. If you believe your child needs specialist equipment, or other facilities, please contact Miss Hughes or discuss the issue at the next review/parents evening.

The school works closely with Slough Borough Council and as a school we can access a range of services including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS); Social Care; School Nurse Service; Educational Psychology Service; Careers advice; Speech and Language Service; Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Services. These services are contacted when necessary, according to your child's needs.

If you believe your child needs support from a specialist, please contact Miss Hughes or discuss your concerns at the next review/parents evening.

How do we handle complaints from parents of children with SEND about provision made at the school?

We hope that you will be pleased with the support your child receives during their time with us but if you are unhappy with the support in the first instance contact the subject teacher or your child's tutor who may refer your concerns to a more senior member of staff if needed.

Alternatively, please contact the SENDCo or the Deputy Headteacher. The schools' complaints procedure is available on the school's website.

What support services are available to parents?

Within Slough there are several organisations who will be able to support you if you have any concerns or need support.

We work closely with the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service, encouraging parents to contact them if they need help or support related to their child's SEN needs.

All the information about local services available to our families can be found on the Slough Local Offer by visiting:

<http://servicesguide.slough.gov.uk/kb5/slough/services/localoffer.page>

We regularly update our local offer to reflect any changes to the provision that we are able to offer to young people.

The school's SEND policy and details of how it is implemented.

The SEND policy is publically available of the school website and it is the responsibility of the SENDCo, with the support of the Headteacher and SEND Link Governor, to ensure that it is implemented.

For more information or to view the SEND Policy please click on the link below:

<http://www.westgate.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=SEND&pid=41>

Who is our special educational needs and disability coordinator (SENDCo) and how can she be contacted?

For additional information, or if you have any queries or concerns, please contact our SENDCo, on [01753 521320](tel:01753521320) or alternatively email secretary@westgate.slough.sch.uk.

School Admissions

For information about our admissions processes, the arrangements for the admission of pupils with disabilities and the steps we take to prevent pupils with disabilities being treated less favourably than other pupils please refer to our **admissions policy** on the school website by clicking the link below:

<http://www.westgate.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=15>

Facilities for pupils with disabilities

For more information about the facilities we provide to help pupils with disabilities to access the school please refer to the **accessibility plan** on the school website by clicking the link below: <http://www.westgate.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=SEND&pid=41>