



INFORMATION REPORT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES

At Boston Pioneers Free Academy, we strive to be fully inclusive.

We welcome everyone into our community and aim to support every child to reach their full potential.

This document is intended to give you an overview of the support and resources available in our Academy- but it is by no means exhaustive! As the needs of our pupils change, so do the resources and support available.

The SENCO for Boston Pioneers Free School Academy is Mrs Virginia Lilley.

ACRONYMS and ABBREVIATIONS

The world is full of acronyms and abbreviations. In order to help you decipher this report, please see below the list of acronyms and abbreviations used in this document and beyond.

ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
COP	Code of Practice
EHCP	Education Health and Care Plan
EHCNA	Education Health and Care Needs Assessment
EP	Educational Psychologist
EWO	Education Welfare officer
IHP	Individual Healthcare plan
LP	Learning Plan
NFER	National Foundation for Educational Research
ODD	Oppositional Defiance Disorder
OT	Occupational Therapist
PT	Physiotherapist
SALT	Speech and Language Therapy
SATs	Statutory Attainment Tests

SENCo	Special Educational Needs Coordinator
SEND	Special Education Needs and Disabilities
SEST	Sensory Education Support Team
STT	Specialist Teacher Team
TA	Teaching Assistant
WTT	Working Together Team

What should I do if I think my child has a SEND?

If you believe your child may have a SEND, then the first person to discuss this with is the class teacher who will be able to address your concerns in the first instance. Alternatively, you may wish to speak to the SENCo who will discuss your concerns with the class teacher on your behalf.

If your child is joining us part way through the year, you may wish to discuss your concerns directly with Mrs Lilley SENCo for additional learning or the Head Teacher or Deputy Head. This can be arranged by contacting the Academy office.

How will the Academy respond to my concern?

Once a parent has raised a concern about a child/ young person, the normal procedure would be that the class teacher would undertake to assess/ observe the pupil and then arrange a meeting to feedback their findings. This may or may not result in further intervention/ assessment taking place.

How will the Academy decide if my child needs extra support?

In line with The Code of Practice 2015, Boston Pioneers Free School Academy identifies pupils as having a Special Educational Need if:

"...they (the child) have a learning difficulty and/ or disability which requires special educational provision to be made for them." (COP p15)

A child has a learning difficulty if: "...they have significantly greater difficulty learning than their peers." (COP p15)

A child's disability can be referred to as a special educational need if: "... (the disability) prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools." (COP p15)

If the class teacher feels that there is a need to investigate a learner's difficulties further, they may request that the SENDCo observe the child and if felt necessary,, a cycle of plan - do - review will be implemented as part of our graduated approach.

At Boston Pioneers Free School Academy, we follow a graduated approach to Special Educational Needs (SEN) to ensure that every child receives the support they need. This begins with quality first teaching, where teachers adapt lessons to meet the needs of different learners. If further support is required, we use targeted interventions and closely monitor progress. For children needing additional help, we create a personalized plan, (Individual Education Plan) involving parents and/or specialists, to provide the right level of support for each child's development

Following this period of intervention, the teacher will assess the learner and ascertain how much progress has been made. If the targets have been met, then the decision may be made to discontinue the provision. If the targets have not been met, then another cycle of provision will be arranged, and new targets set.

If, after this cycle, progress is still slow then the decision will be made to move the learner to SEND Provision, and they will be formally added to the academy's Special Needs Register with the consent of the parent/carer.

If there is limited progress after provisions have been put into place, further specialist assessments might be sought. These may be carried out by a specialist teacher or other relevant specialist.

What will the Academy do to support my child?

The class teacher remains responsible for planning the provision needed to help your child achieve their targets, whether these are for a special educational need or not. The support a learner needs may be in the form of a specialist intervention programme, delivered by a teaching assistant or teacher.

However, the provision may also take the form of adjustments to the learning environment, timetable or specialist equipment.

Who will support my child?

Depending on the needs of the child, support may be provided by the class teacher, a teaching assistant or a specialist advisor.

Learners with SEND who are in care are overseen by the virtual school. The virtual school supports the education of children in care. It also provides advice to the carers, parents and schools of previous children in care and care leavers. The Academy's CIC designated teacher will liaise closely with the Academy's SENDCo to ensure that suitable provision is in place, including how the Pupil Premium Funding for CIC is to be spent.

What training and experience do staff have for the additional support my child needs?

The Academy SENCO holds the National Award for Special Needs Coordination and has been a SENCO for 4 years.

Currently, there are staff (teachers and teaching assistants) within the Academy trained in:

- Diabetes- administration and supervision of insulin
- Epi-pen
- Moving and handling
- Positive handling
- Dyslexia
- Autism
- Makaton
- Speech and Language therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Injections

We also have a wealth of experience in supporting children with a wide range of conditions such as:

- Dyspraxia
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Hypermobility
- ADHD/ADD/ODD
- Epilepsy
- Hearing Impairment
- Sight Impairment

Where specialist training is required to meet the physical needs of a learner, we will contact the relevant professional body who will support this.

Who else might be involved in supporting my child?

The Academy benefits from the support of a wide range of outside agencies including:

- Educational Psychologist
- Sensory Education Support Team
- Physiotherapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Working Together Team
- ESCO
- Dyslexia Outreach.
- The eye clinic.

Support from these agencies is initiated either by the academy or parents (depending on their referral procedures) and then liaison with this led by the SENCO.

What support will there be for my child's social and emotional well-being?

Our Academy has two dedicated family support workers, Miss Gilbert and Mrs Mumbray, who work alongside the Academy's Senior Leadership Team to support the general health and wellbeing of our learners and their families.

When a learner has been identified as having a social or emotional difficulty, they will often be supported by the class teacher in the first instance. If however, it is felt their need is greater than that that can be provided by the class teacher / teaching assistant alone, a referral will be made by the class teacher to the family support worker. These will then be screened by the family support worker and head teacher to ensure the most appropriate support is put in place.

Attendance is monitored constantly by our Attendance Champion and Trust EWO and rewards and certificates given for excellent and improved attendance. Where a learner's attendance falls well below the expected level, parents are invited to attend Attendance Panel Meetings where support and advice to aid improvement is given. As a Trust we believe that a learner's SEND should not be a barrier to good attendance and as such, learners with SEND are subject to the same attendance procedures as all other learners.

How will my child be able to contribute their views and how will he/she be involved in the process?

Is essential that, even from an early age, learners are included in decisions made on their behalf about their education. As a result, all learners are included in target setting in their classes.

If a Learning Plan is implemented, then this plan will be discussed with the learner and their ideas for targets recorded.

All learners with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are given the opportunity to contribute their views either verbally or in writing for an Annual Review Meeting. We always value the views of all individual learners and listen to their opinions about issues which affect their lives.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

Creating an accessible curriculum is key to meeting the needs of all learners and this is an essential part of what we call 'Quality First Teaching'. Teachers adapt the opportunities in a variety of ways including changing the outcome, providing supportive resources and using adult support. By using adaptation, teachers can ensure they are meeting the needs of the learner appropriately therefore increasing the chance of success.

If a learner has a physical need the Academy is very well resourced to meet these needs, providing a variety of equipment for use by individual pupils e.g. iPads, scanners, visualisers, light box.

What opportunities will there be for me to discuss my child's achievements? How will I know how well my child is progressing?

We believe in working closely with parents and carers to support each child's progress. We provide regular updates through termly parent meetings, annual progress reports, and informal discussions for all pupils.

Where children have a LP or an EHCP in place then then the targets for their LPs are reviewed every half term and a copy of their review and new targets are sent home.

When a learner has an EHCP, a review meeting is held, at a minimum, annually. All personnel involved with the learner are invited to this meeting and where they cannot attend, a report is usually provided.

Where necessary, home/schoolbooks are implemented to allow for a two-way dialogue between parents and staff, to discuss daily progress.

An appointment with the teacher or SENCo can be made at any other time during the academic year to address any parental concerns.

Parents are also able to access support and information about their child's progress and support via email: virginia.lilley@bostonpioneersacademy.net

How does the academy know how well my child is doing?

Assessment is an on-going tool used by teachers to plan appropriate work for the learners in their class. Teachers use both summative and formative assessment. Summative is the assessment which is based on a test or quiz and tests the learner's knowledge on a particular subject. Formative assessment is assessment which teachers do every day, which comes from a variety of sources including what children say, what they write or activities they may complete.

Over a term, teachers gather the formative assessments they have made on a learner and consider where the learner's attainment is in line with the expectations for their year group.

Statutory assessments are undertaken in Foundation Stage where pupil progress is measured against the national Early Learning Goals. Phonic Screening is carried out in Y1 during the Summer Term. Statutory SATs assessments are administered to pupils in Y6.

For learners on the SEN register, the teacher and SENCo may feel it is appropriate to assess them against the expectations of a lower year group. For example, a learner in Year 4 may be assessed against the expectations of a Year 2 learner. For some learners, whose attainment is below the expectations of Year 1 then the Pre-Key Stage standards are utilised, using 'Cherry Garden' as an assessment tool.

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including educational visits?

All the academies run an extensive range of extra-curricular activities. In order to be fully inclusive, TA support (where available) is provided for those pupils for whom it is deemed necessary to help them access the club/activity.

When considering educational visits, including residential ones, all individual pupil needs are considered e.g. IHP's, medication, 1:1 support, wheelchair access in theatres and on coaches. If it is felt appropriate, parents/carers are invited to accompany their child.

How accessible is the academy environment?

Our premises is fully accessible to all, as a two-storey building, we have a lift to the second floor as required.

Where necessary, for learners with complex additional needs, individual risk assessments are agreed in consultation with the teacher, TA and SENCO to identify the needs and level of assistance that may be required in the event of an emergency incident necessitating the evacuation of the building.

Toilet facilities for disabled visitors.

The academy has roadside parking which facilitates ease of access.

Further details of accessibility can be found in the accessibility plan.

My child is disabled, can they still attend your academies?

We are proud of the inclusive nature of our academy, and we will endeavour to ensure that all children can be admitted into our setting, regardless of any physical disability. As a public service provider, we are bound by the Equality Act (2010) to ensure that we make 'reasonable adjustments' to the facilities and activities made available to our learners.

How will the academy prepare and support my child to join the academy?

Prior to a learner entering the academy in Foundation Stage, the EYFS lead and SENDCo, visit the pre-school settings where they meet with the key workers of any learners with SEND. The SENDCo will also meet with the Early Years Specialist Teachers and discuss learners with whom they have been working. The learners and parents/carers are invited into the academy in order to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings, routines and personnel.

When learners join mid-year, they are provided with a buddy to help them settle into the new environment. There is close liaison with the learner's previous school setting and all data and relevant information is exchanged.

At Y6, in the Summer Term, the academy has a transition period, where the Y6 learners have the opportunity to visit their secondary school setting. This is encouraged by the academy and the SENDCo will attend a transition meeting with all secondary school SENDCo's to ensure all important information is shared.

How will the academy prepare and support my child to transfer to a new class or school?

When learners move from one year group to the next, the learners will have a transition time set by the academy where they will go to their new classroom and meet their new teacher. The SENDCo will arrange time for the teachers to view the SEND files for the pupils, so that they can familiarise themselves with the needs of the pupil and the provisions which need to be in place from September.

We prepare all pupils for secondary school by building key skills in resilience, independence, and responsibility. For children with SEN, we provide additional support through transition meetings, additional visits to secondary schools (supported if required), and tailored transition plans. This ensures every pupil feels confident and well-prepared for the next stage of their education.

How can I be involved in supporting my child?

Parents are fully encouraged to work in partnership with the academy to support their child's learning. Open communication is encouraged, and parents are welcome to assist on educational visits and other occasions when help is needed.

Parents are encouraged to support their children with their homework e.g. reading, numeracy games.

How does the Academy monitor the effectiveness of the SEND support available?

The SENDCo, supported by SLT, is responsible for monitoring the efficacy of the SEND provision within the academy. This is done through a variety of methods including: monitoring pupil progress, learning walks and lesson observations.

The Trust is responsible for quality assuring the provision available to learners with SEND.

What should I do if I have a complaint about the SEND provision in my child's academy?

In the first instance this complaint should be addressed with the Head Teacher or SENDCo. Following this, if you feel the situation has not been resolved, they each academy has the Complaints procedure detailed on their website or alternatively, a copy can be obtained from the academy office.

How can I access further information about SEND in Lincolnshire?

Support for parents/carers and families can be found at:

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer

Who can I contact for further information?

	Location	Name	Telephone	Email
Headteacher	Boston Pioneers	Miss J Bland	01205 353062	Jo.bland@bostonpioneersacademy.net
SENCo		Mrs V Lilley		virginia.lilley@bostonpioneersacademy.net

Updated September 2024

Next update due: September 2025