



# SEN Policy

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## 1. Objectives

The governors' objectives for all the pupils at Castlebar School are within the school aims and vision:

- To create a warm, caring and well organised learning environment
- To present children with challenges that will equip them to realise their full potential
- To do this within the framework of the national curriculum differentiated to meet their special educational needs
- To develop and support a skilled and highly motivated workforce
- To help them realise their own self worth
- To thereby develop self-esteem and independence
- To encourage mutual respect and an appreciation of the worth of others within a multicultural community.

## 2. Provision

Castlebar is an outstanding maintained Local Authority day special school within the London Borough of Ealing. It caters for pupils aged 4-11yrs with learning difficulties ranging from low moderate to severe and complex needs. These difficulties include pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Hearing/Visual Impairments and Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties. 55% of the pupils at Castlebar have Severe Learning Difficulty compared to 45% with Moderate Learning Difficulty. Of these pupils, 32% are also classed as having Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

All pupils are admitted to the school with a Statement of Special Educational Needs. Most entry to the school occurs at Reception however a number of pupils are admitted further up the school. Admission usually occurs at the beginning of the academic year. However pupils will be admitted during the year if there are vacancies.

## 3. Facilities and Access

The school is fully accessible as it is on one level. All building improvements and our recent building expansion are within DDA requirements. The school has a range of specialised facilities

- A suite of sensory rooms
- Specialised outside learning and play areas
- Specialised Equipment eg Occupational Therapy; Specialised technology

## 4. School's policies for the assessment and provision

Full details are within the school's Assessment, Evaluation and Monitoring Policy, Curriculum Policy and the Teaching and Learning Policy.

## 5. Resource Allocation

Resources are allocated to pupils according to their assessed need. Staffing is allocated to classes/year groups flexibly with some individual pupils receiving more support than others. Pupils have individualised equipment that will enable them to access the curriculum and social environment of the school. In a small number of cases, specific pupils have additional resources (including staffing support) paid for by their Local Authority. The school ensures that that these pupils receive the support of these resources. All pupils have a provision map outlining their provision.

## 6. Identification and Review of Pupils Needs

*Refer to Assessment, Evaluation and Monitoring Policy*

Pupils' statements of special educational needs are reviewed at least annually. The leadership team and staff review pupils' needs termly and bi annually via pupil progress meeting.

Pupils' needs are also reviewed with the school multi-disciplinary team -see Multi-disciplinary statement

## 7. Access by pupils to a balanced and broadly based curriculum (including the National Curriculum)

*Refer to the Teaching and Learning Policy and Curriculum Policy*

## 8. Governing Body Evaluation

- Termly reports are made by the Headteacher to full Governors and the Pupils, Teaching and Learning Committee.
- Governors are linked to various areas of the curriculum and classes activities and make focussed visits.
- Benchmarking tools are available to Governors.

## 9. Complaints

*Refer to Complaints Policy*

## 10. School's staffing policies and partnership with bodies beyond the school.

The school's staffing structure is reviewed by the Staffing and Resources Committees. Please see the schools staffing structure map

Castlebar is a partner in a number of alliances /partnership including

- Challenge Partnership
- National College Support School
- LA networks and partnerships eg Extended Schools

## 11. In-service training

The school's CPD co-ordinator takes responsibility for in-service training. CPD is available for all staff. Staff access training through a balance between the needs of the school as expressed in the School Improvement Plan and an individual's needs as well as emerging needs related to the changing needs of the pupils.

## 12. External Links and Services

- Therapists and School Nursing staff provided by PCT
- Peripatetic teachers for VI and HI
- Sense
- Image in Action
- Educational Psychology
- Clinical Psychology

## 13. Role played by parents/carers of pupils

The school strives to nurture relationships with parents/carers by frequent and appropriate communication. Engagement with parents/carers and involving them in the education of their child is considered as vital. Parents/carers are invited to review meetings to discuss progress and to be involved in setting targets with appropriate intervention strategies to help their child at home and at school. Home learning booklets and information is given, as well as information about the subject content of the curriculum. Parent volunteers help in the school e.g. swimming, reading, library, curriculum events.

## 14. Links with other schools and transition arrangements

- The school aims to visit new pupils and their families at nursery/school and home at admission
- Transition to into school is facilitated by a focused programme involving parents and pupils.
- Transition to secondary provision or integration into mainstream are facilitated by focussed programmes
- Castlebar also offers an Outreach service to provide support and advice to other settings

## 15. Links with child health services, social services and educational welfare services and any voluntary organisations which work on behalf of children with special educational needs

The school has number of links Heath, Social Care and other services. These include:

- Ealing Social Services as well as the Social Services provision serving pupils who live outside Ealing.
- Ealing Health service
- ESCAN
- Ealing Mencap