



WICKERSLEY
PARTNERSHIP
TRUST.

SEND Information Report

The Gainsborough Academy

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OWNED BY: Executive Lead for SEND

APPROVED BY: Education Subcommittee

WICKERSLEY PARTNERSHIP TRUST

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This policy does not form part of the contract of employment and from time to time may be altered following consultation and negotiations with recognised Trade Unions. Any changes will be communicated to employees with reasonable notice. The policy may vary from time to time on a case-by-case basis in consultation and agreement with Union Representatives.



1. Introduction

This is The Gainsborough Academy's School's information report about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It is written in line with the SEND Code of Practice 2014 and links to other relevant policies can be found below and on the school website: <https://thegainsboroughacademy.org.uk/our-school/policies/>

2. The Types of Special Educational Needs Provided for at The Gainsborough Academy and PHASE (SEND HUB)

At The Gainsborough Academy, we meet children's individual needs and will make reasonable adjustments to do so. Our inclusive ethos is at the heart of everything we do, and we take pride in creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all.

We provide for all types of SEND of which the broad areas are:

- Communication and interaction;
- Cognition and learning;
- Social emotional and mental health difficulties;
- Sensory and/or physical needs

*Our SEND HUB (PHASE) provides a nurturing, inclusive and supportive environment for pupils with complex Communication and Interaction and/or Cognition and Learning needs, including Autism and ADHD. The HUB aims to enable pupils to access a mainstream education alongside tailored support within a more specialised environment, meeting their individual needs and promoting their academic, social, emotional and personal development.

3. Admission of Children with SEND

The Local Authority admits pupils to the school according to its own admissions policy, which can be found at: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/apply-school>

Children who have Education, Health & Care plans which name The Gainsborough Academy are given priority.

PHASE (SEND HUB)

Admission to a SEND Hub is a structured and collaborative process designed to ensure that placements are appropriate, sustainable, and in the best interests of the child. The process is governed by the principles of inclusion, transparency, and partnership between the Local Authority (LA), the host school, parents/carers, and relevant professionals.

Pupils that may be suitable for a SEND Hub would be identified through either the (1) Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment and new EHC plan or (2) the annual review process. This will include and be informed by discussions with the current setting, evidence provided and involved professionals as well as parents/carers. There is an expectation that a SEND case worker will have gathered sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the child requires a more specialist environment within a mainstream school to support their access to the curriculum and activities offered by the school. The SEND Hubs are not a special school and therefore this must be considered when identifying children that would benefit from this provision.

For more information about our SEND HUB please visit:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/support-education/mainstream-send-hubs>

4. How do we Identify Children and Young People with SEND?

All children are assessed on entry to school. This includes baseline testing and NGRT testing where we record their reading ages. These assessments tell us how well a child is attaining according to age-related expectations.

If a child is attaining below their age-related expectation in any area, then their teachers use adaptive practices to ensure activities are at the right level of the child. Most children and young people at The Gainsborough Academy will have their needs met through good classroom practice, this is known as quality first teaching (QFT). Over the last three years staff have been trained frequently on QFT practices. However, where concerns are raised The Gainsborough Academy has a rigorous plan, do, review cycle. Early identification is key and we aim to identify children who have any difficulties as soon as possible so that appropriate support can be given.

Children's progress will be monitored by the class teacher. Most children will make progress if the work provided by their teacher is matched to their needs and they receive some extra support from their teacher or teaching assistant (Quality First Teaching). Some children also have the opportunity to access a catch-up intervention programme.

If a child is not making expected progress, the class teacher will consult the SENDCO's through a SEND Cause for Concern Form. The SENDCO will then ask staff to complete the relevant graduated response documentation to gather further information about the child's needs, progress and the support already in place. The SENDCO may request additional assessments, such as a reading assessment, or recommend a referral to a specialist professional, including our external Specialist Inclusion Team Teacher, Specialist Teacher or Speech and Language Service. Following this process, more specialised provision and targeted support will be put in place to meet the individual needs of the child.

A child is identified as having Special Educational Needs (SEN) when they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision, meaning provision that is different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age. For a few pupils, an Education, Health and Care Plan request for assessment will be appropriate. This is a statutory process which involves parents and all other professionals involved with the child.

5. Involving Parents and Carers

Everyone:

- Is asked about their child's needs when their child starts at The Gainsborough Academy;
- Has the opportunity to discuss any concerns with the class teacher at a pre-arranged time;
- Can telephone the SENDco or Head Teacher with any concerns or queries;
- Is invited to regular meetings;
- Receives a Pupil Progress Report whether they attend Parents' Evenings or not;
- Receives an annual report;
- Is invited to school events

Some Parents:

- Whose child is receiving extra support in class are informed about it at Parents' Evenings or at additional review meetings;
- Whose child is chosen to go on an intervention programme will know because the teacher will discuss this with them;
- May notice things at home that we do not observe at school (please let us know any information that we need to know about your child's needs and developments).

A Few Parents

Whose child needs more specialised support, because they have SEND, will be invited to have additional meetings in school with the SENCO, class teacher and staff from other services involved, to decide how best to meet their child's needs. These meetings happen at least once a term or more often, if needed.

Children who are Looked After by the local authority will have termly Personal Education Plan meetings as a matter of course, these may be more frequent if they have Special Educational Needs.

Supporting Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) with SEND

Children who are Looked After by the Local Authority or Previously Looked After who also have Special Educational Needs receive co-ordinated, multi-agency support to ensure their academic, social, and emotional needs are met holistically.

- **Designated Teacher & SENDCo Oversight:** The school's Designated Teacher for Looked After Children works directly with the SENDCo to oversee provision, monitor progress, and ensure reasonable adjustments are implemented effectively across the curriculum.
- **Integrated Planning & PEP Reviews:** Every Looked After Child has a Personal Education Plan (PEP). Where a child also receives SEN Support or holds an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), termly PEP meetings are aligned with statutory SEN reviews wherever possible. This ensures targets are streamlined, avoiding conflicting plans on carers and social workers.
- **Virtual School & Multi-Agency Collaboration:** We work in close partnership with the Local Authority Virtual School Head (VSH) and local social care teams. We utilise Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding and specialist external advice to provide targeted academic interventions, nurture support, or sensory resources tailored to the child's individual needs.

6. Involving Children who have SEND

Before each planning meeting, a familiar member of staff will talk to each child with SEN and find out their views. They might ask about what the child finds easy or hard, who the child goes to for help, what the child would like help with next and what the child likes doing, etc.

All the staff who are working with children with SEND are observing them and listening to them on an on-going everyday basis. They are alert to children's feelings and report any changes to the SENCO and the parents which is then recorded on their support plans.

7. How do we Evaluate the Effectiveness of our SEND Provision?

Children who have special educational needs have individual targets. These can be set by the class teacher or by the Specialist Inclusion Team teacher (LSP targets). The targets are measurable and are reviewed termly or more frequently if appropriate. Parents are invited to review meetings to discuss their child's progress towards their targets and to plan for next steps.

At The Gainsborough Academy, we regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the provision made for pupils with SEND to ensure it delivers maximum impact on progress, well-being, and inclusion. We use the following strategies:

The Graduated Approach (Assess, Plan, Do, Review)

- Termly Target Reviews: Individual support plans and target outcomes are reviewed at least termly with class teachers, the SENDCo, parents, and (where appropriate) the pupil.
- Intervention Tracking: Pre- and post-intervention baseline assessments are conducted for all catch-up and specialist intervention groups to measure precise progress (e.g., reading age gains, standardized score changes, or behavioral milestones). If an intervention shows insufficient progress, it is modified or replaced.

Pupil Progress Monitoring & Data Analysis

- Cohort Tracking: The SENDCo and Senior Leadership Team review the academic progress data for all pupils on the SEND Register alongside whole-school data to identify trends, narrow attainment gaps, and ensure high expectations are maintained on a termly basis.
- Qualitative Progress: For pupils with complex needs accessing small-step tracking tools (EYFS Support Journal), progress is evaluated against individualised developmental targets.

Strategic & Governance Oversight

- SEND Governor Audits: The designated SEND Governor meets regularly with the SENDCo to review provision mapping and to conduct learning walks.
- Annual Policy & Provision Review: The SEND Information Report and SEND Policy are reviewed annually by the Local Governing Body and Trust Leadership to evaluate the overall success of the school's inclusive practices.

Pupil and Parent Voice

Feedback Surveys & Review Meetings: Views gathered during termly review meetings, annual EHCP reviews, and annual parent/pupil surveys are analysed to evaluate how supported families feel and adapt provision accordingly. Learning Walks & Drop-Ins: Senior leaders conduct regular classroom drop-ins and book looks to evaluate the quality of adaptive teaching and First Quality Teaching across all key stages.

8. Staff Training and Expertise

- Our SENDCo holds the statutory National Award for SEN Co-ordination (NASENCO) and regularly attends local authority briefings.
- All teaching staff receive regular continuous professional development (CPD) on adaptive teaching strategies, Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), and Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) awareness.
- Our support staff have a variety of training including use of Widgit symbols, sensory circuits, Fluency Project, and targeted reading interventions such as the Fluency Project and First Class at Number.
- When a pupil presents with complex individual needs, bespoke training is commissioned directly through external agencies, such as the Local Authority Specialist Inclusion Team, Educational Psychology Service, or NHS Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy teams.

9. Securing Equipment and Facilities

The Gainsborough Academy ensures that all children with SEND have access to the necessary specialist equipment and facilities to fully participate in school life:

- **Funding & Procuring Learning Resources:** Specialist learning resources, sensory regulation tools (such as sensory circuits, weighted blankets, and movement cushions), alternative communication aids such as Widgit, and assistive technology software are funded and secured through the school's delegated SEN budget.
- **Specialist Physical & Medical Equipment:** Where a child requires bespoke physical, medical, or sensory equipment (such as specialist seating, standing frames, or hearing technology), the SENDCo collaborates directly with NHS Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, or Local Authority Sensory Services to assess needs, procure equipment, and train staff on safe use.
- **Environmental Accessibility:** Physical facilities and site adaptations (such as level access, accessible toilet facilities, and sensory spaces) are continually reviewed and upgraded in accordance with the school's Accessibility Plan.

10. Transition to a New/Secondary School

Before a child moves to a new school, the SENDCo's at The Gainsborough Academy invites the SENDCo from the receiving school to attend review meetings. This ensures that all necessary plans are in place for a smooth and successful transition.

Transition arrangements are tailored to each child's individual needs, and staff from The Gainsborough Academy can support by accompanying children on additional visits to their new school if needed.

11. Support for Pupils with Medical Conditions

The Gainsborough Academy is committed to ensuring that pupils with medical conditions are fully supported so they have complete access to education, including school trips and physical education.

- **Individual Healthcare Plans (IHCPs):** Where appropriate, detailed Healthcare Plans are completed in partnership with parents, healthcare professionals, and the pupil. These plans outline daily management, emergency protocols, and staff training needs.
- For pupils who have both medical needs and Special Educational Needs, medical support is integrated directly into their SEN Support Plan or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- **Policy Reference:** Management of medicines and health procedures is carried out in line with our *Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy*, available on the school website.

12. Possible Plans for Children with SEN

At The Gainsborough Academy we are very flexible and will do our best to put in place whatever a child needs, so that they are not treated less favourably than other pupils. This could include:

- A sensory approach to learning including sensory circuits;
- More practical activities;
- Smaller learning steps;
- Extra help/supervision from a member of staff;
- Small group or one to one work;
- Different resources or facilities;

- A visual timetable;
- A workstation
- Access to nurture provision or continuous provision

Our staff are experienced and trained in meeting children's needs. When needed, specialist training is arranged so that a child's plan can be delivered.

13. A Whole School Approach

At The Gainsborough Academy, we have a whole school approach to SEND and this is part of our strategic plans every year. The progress of children with SEND is evaluated, is on our school development plan and a part of staff performance management.

As part of our whole school approach:

- We make sure that adjustments are in place so that children with SEND can access all the activities available in school. We may provide additional resources or support, or we may adapt the activity to make it accessible.
- We provide high quality support for improving everyone's emotional and social development by encouraging and making every opportunity for children to make their views and feelings known.
- We have a rigorous report and monitoring system for bullying and investigate any complaint thoroughly and seriously.

14. Access Disability, Accessibility, and Preventing Less Favourable Treatment

In accordance with Section 69 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Equality Act 2010, The Gainsborough Academy takes proactive steps to ensure that disabled pupils are not treated less favourably than other pupils.

- Preventing Discrimination: We make reasonable adjustments across all areas of school life—including teaching methods, physical environments, classroom equipment, and curriculum delivery—to ensure disabled pupils have equal access to learning, extra-curricular activities, school trips, and residential visits.
- Improving Physical & Curriculum Access: Facilities include level access throughout teaching areas, accessible toilet facilities, and sensory spaces. We continuously review physical accessibility and adaptive learning resources to meet the individual needs of our pupils.
- Accessibility Plan: Our strategy for increasing curriculum access, improving the physical environment, and enhancing the delivery of written information to disabled pupils is detailed in the school's *Accessibility Plan*, available on the school website or upon request from the school office.

15. Complaints

If parents of children with SEND have any concerns or complaints regarding the provision for their child, they should contact either Miss Gibbons (HUB and KS4 SENDCo), Mrs Cooke (KS3 SENDCo) or Ms Tate-Brier (Deputy SENDCo). If the matter is not resolved, parents should follow the school's Complaints Procedure, which is available from the school office or on the school website.

Informal Resolution

If you have a concern or complaint regarding your child's SEND provision, please talk to us first:

- First point of contact: Class Teacher
- Next step: Contact the SENDCO or Headteacher (Miss Skelton) via the school office or email.

Formal Escalation

If your concern cannot be resolved informally, you can submit a formal complaint in writing. The complaint will follow the Wickersley Partnership Trust staged process:

- **Stage 1:** Senior Leadership Team investigation
- **Stage 2:** Headteacher investigation
- **Stage 3:** Governors' Panel Hearing
- **Stage 4:** Trust Senior Management review
- **Stage 5:** Board of Trustees review

Statutory Matters & Independent Advice

- **EHC Plans & Statutory Assessments:** Concerns about formal assessments or EHCPs fall outside the school procedure and must be raised directly with **Lincolnshire Local Authority**.
- **Independent Support:** Parents can get free, confidential advice from **Lincolnshire LIAISE** or the **Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum (LPCF)**.

16. Useful Contacts and Information

The Local Offer

The School's contribution to the local offer can be found at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/send-local-offer>
Or via the school website: <https://thegainsboroughacademy.org.uk/parents/send-information/>

PHASE (SEND HUB) and KS4 SEND Co-ordinator: Miss Gibbons

Contact: jgibbons@gainsboroughacademy.com
Telephone: 01427 612411

KS3 SENDco: Mrs Cooke

Contact: amoss@gainsboroughacademy.com
Telephone: 01427 612411

Deputy SEND Co-ordinator: Ms Tate-Brier

Contact: btate-brier@gainsboroughacademy.com
Telephone: 01427 612411

SEND Admin: Caroline Blackwell

Contact: cblackwell@gainsboroughacademy.com
Telephone: 01427 612411

Headteacher: Mrs Skelton

Contact: rskelton@gainsboroughacademy.com
Telephone: 01427 612411

LPFC Parents / Carers Forum:

A registered charity run by and for families of children and young people (aged 0-25) who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

<https://www.lincspcf.org.uk/>

LIAISE

<https://www.liaiselincolnshire.org.uk/>

Information, advice and support for parents and carers of children with SEND Contact: 0800 195 1635

The Government guide to SEND for Parents:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/344424/Special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_guide_for_parents_and_carers.pdf

For information on admissions, please visit:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions>

Information, advice and support for parents and carers of children with SEND Contact: 01709 823627

17. External Services

- **Lincolnshire Children's Therapy Services:** Lincolnshire operates an open referral system for speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.
 - <https://www.lincolnshirechildrenstherapyservices.nhs.uk/our-services/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy>
- Lincolnshire Sensory services:
 - <https://www.lincolnshiresensoryservices.org.uk/>
 - Call: 03333 202667
 - Text: 07710155104
- Psychology Service:
 - <https://portal.bps.org.uk/Psychologist-Search/Directory-of-Chartered-Psychologists>
- Early Help 01522 782111

18. Glossary of Terms (Partial List)

Acronym	Term
ASC	Autistic Spectrum Condition
COP	Code of Practice
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
EP	Educational Psychologist
LSS	Learning Support Service
OT	Occupational Therapist
SaLT	Speech & Language Therapy
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disability
SENCO	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs



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