



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES POLICY STATEMENT

Amended/Reviewed by: Leadership Team, School Development Committee

Date adopted by Governing Body: 2nd December 2021

Next review date: December 2022

Statement

The Education (Special Educational Needs Information) Regulations 1994 prescribe the issues which schools' Special Educational Needs policies must address. The Department for Education Circular 9/94 provides guidance of the areas that need to be taken into account within each school's statement on Special Educational Needs.

This advice taken in conjunction with the guidance provided by Haringey Education Service in "Special Educational Needs Guidelines for Schools" indicates that the Vale website incorporates all the necessary statutory elements.

The Governing Body has therefore agreed to adopt the website for this purpose with the additional identification of the Chair of Governors and all other governors as the governor with responsibility for Special Needs and the Headteacher and Deputy headteachers as the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO).

SEN Information/School Offer

Our vision

At Vale Special School we put your child and their needs at the centre of everything we do. We believe in quality teaching, learning and care, effective communication, and celebration of success.

All of our children (aged 2-16years) have Special Educational Needs, with learning needs ranging from moderate/severe to profound and multiple needs. Our special school is situated on four sites of mainstream schools and depending on each child's need we offer a tailored programme from a range of provision - mainstream inclusion with support through to specialist small group teaching and support.

We are proud of the fact that on all sites, visitors comment on our friendly 'family' feel.

Type of school

We are an all age (2-16yrs) day special school for pupils with a range of special educational needs;

- Learning difficulties (Moderate, Severe, Profound and Multiple, Global development delay)
- Physical disabilities (eg Cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy)
- Medical conditions (eg Epilepsy, Rhett's syndrome, Down Syndrome, Sotos Syndrome)
- Sensory impairments
- Communication difficulties

Our school is situated on four mainstream school sites, allowing the benefit of best practices of a special school and supported opportunities, experiences and challenges of mainstream provision. In order to meet the range needs most effectively, the provision we offer is also varied, for example,

- a child who is able to access a mainstream curriculum with the addition of specific support may attend our Vale Inclusion Scheme - at Belmont Infant and Belmont Junior School – they would spend the majority of time in their mainstream class
- a child with complex needs may attend the Primary Department co-located with Lancasterian Primary School – they would have small group teaching with other children with similar needs, with appropriate inclusion opportunities.

-a secondary aged student will attend our Secondary Department which is co-located with Duke's Aldridge Academy, they would have a programme tailored to their individual needs, ranging from specialist teaching to full mainstream inclusion.

Our Ofsted rating is Good - Vale School was inspected by OFSTED for a Section 8 short inspection on 18th June 2019. They said...

- This school continues to be good. The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection.
- Staff at your school genuinely care about every child
- Parents and carers speak very highly of the school. They feel that home school communication is excellent, and that the leadership are here to listen to us
- The governing body provides clear strategic leadership, and offers effective support and challenge to you and your staff
- Leaders and governors have established a safe culture that is visible throughout the school. All staff receive appropriate safeguarding training. This has ensured that safeguarding responsibilities throughout the school are taken exceedingly seriously.
- All teachers plan lessons to match individual pupils' learning goals. Throughout the school pupils are becoming increasingly engaged with lessons and curious about learning
- Teaching staff have an in-depth knowledge of pupils' special educational needs, and are able to set purposeful and meaningful targets. Regular assessments allow leaders to swiftly put interventions in place if pupils are at risk of falling behind.
- Highly effective partnership with speech and language therapists has helped train school staff to use a range of communication support strategies....As a result the whole community, including governors and parents, understand the importance of removing communication barriers
- You make the most of being co-located with mainstream schools.... The environment is inclusive, and there are many opportunities for mainstream inclusion; pupils develop resilience, and get to feel part of a wider community.
- Pupils know what they and their peers are working towards. They celebrate not just in their own, but also their classmates' achievements. Pupils are proud of their school

How we know if a child/young person has special educational needs

If you think that your child needs a special school place, please contact Vale School for a visit on 0208 801 6111.

- Admissions to Vale School usually come through the Haringey Special Educational Needs Panel.
- Children are likely to have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), but they can be admitted on an assessment place if they have not yet received one and it is an appropriate placement.
- We carry out an initial assessment of your child's needs with parents/carers, school staff, therapy staff and school nurse to identify the best support for them.

What we do to help children/young people with special educational needs

As a special school, our provision is designed and adapted to meet the needs of every child.

- We very carefully plan and tailor teaching and learning to the needs of the individual child

- We manage therapy, medical interventions and programmes through education and health staff working together with children and their families.
- A typical Vale class will have between 6 and 10 pupils per class, with a staff class team of a fully qualified teacher and at least two special needs assistants.
- The school nurse, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists are all based on site and they work very closely with class staff teams.
- Dieticians and a variety of other health, education and social care professionals may be involved when and where appropriate.
- We have a Hydrotherapy Pool on the Vale @ Lancasterian site and children from across the school will access hydrotherapy sessions according to their needs.
- We have a child psychotherapist to support emotional needs of pupils and parents/carers, as required

How we adapt our teaching for children with special educational needs

At Vale School we tailor and adapt our teaching to meet children's learning needs and their communication, physical and emotional needs. Every child is challenged to achieve through appropriate goals and teachers ensure that strategies and activities are appropriate and enjoyable.

- If your child has profound and multiple learning difficulties they explore the world around them through sensory approaches eg touch, smell, taste exploration; they learn to make choices, express their likes and needs, develop a sense of security and establish positive relationships.
- If your child has severe learning difficulties they access learning through functional activities, structured play and life experiences. There is a strong emphasis on developing independence skills and understanding expectations and making appropriate choices.
- If your child has moderate and/or specific learning needs, they work within the range of national curriculum subjects for their key stage. Teaching is modified to reflect their developmental level and special educational needs. Pupils in this group typically spend some time in mainstream classes with support. The teaching activities will focus on your child's skills in all subject areas with an emphasis on developing independence.
- If your child can access mainstream classes then we offer this through partial or full inclusion into our partnership mainstream schools. They are supported by our highly trained inclusion team in lessons. Inclusion also involves groups of mainstream pupils joining Vale classes on a regular basis.

How we decide what resources we can give to a child person with special educational needs

We are a Local Authority Maintained special school so therefore all funding is allocated to meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. Each child's needs are assessed individually and resources are allocated according to their need. Resources and specific equipment is bought either by the school, the Local Authority or the Health Service, depending on needs and recommended by specialist professional input.

How we check that a child/young person is making progress and how we keep parents informed

- We assess every child's progress on a regular basis and link assessment to future planning for every child
- We have termly meetings to discuss your child's progress and how home and school can work together on supporting your child.
- Every child has a Pupil Support Plan (PSP) which is updated at each meeting.
- We track children's progress throughout the year and over the years and discuss this with parents
- Every child has an Annual Review meeting where the EHCP is reviewed and parents and professionals can discuss and review the child's progress
- We hold regular meetings for parent groups to support them in particular aspects of their child's needs.

Support we offer for children's health and general wellbeing

- We create a nurturing environment for small groups of children with familiar, caring staff. Staff are well trained and skilled in understanding and responding to physical and emotional needs.

- Staff follow our procedures in administering medications and the school nurse guides and trains staff in ensuring that correct and safe procedures are followed
- We have a paediatric school nurse on site, who ensures all health issues are addressed promptly and effectively. She works closely with the consultant paediatrician, who holds medicals at school and follows up with other health professionals to support children and their families.
- Dieticians see children and their parents at school to meet children's nutritional needs
- Team of physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists, who work closely together, ensure the physical and communication needs of pupils are met
- Where children have therapy programmes to follow, therapists give ongoing training to school staff, enabling them to carry out programmes with the children safely and effectively
- We have close links with the Disabled Children's Team and a manager social worker attends regular meetings to ensure all children and their families have the input from social services they need
- We take safeguarding seriously and it is at the heart of our policies and practice
- Intimate care is carried out by trained staff, with an emphasis on safety, dignity and comfort
- We focus on understanding and supporting every child and we celebrate good behaviour
- We ask children for their views through questionnaires
- We have a school council where children can give their opinions and ideas about the school

Specialist external services we use when we think extra help is needed

We access many external services in order to support our children and we work in partnership with a range of health professionals and services. Children and their parents have access to:

- Full time school nurse
- Physiotherapists
- Speech and language therapists
- Occupational therapists
- Hydrotherapy or swimming
- Child psychotherapist

Vale pupils have access to a dedicated consultant paediatrician and have annual medicals as required. Many Vale pupils also access dietician services and CAMHS LD (Children and Adolescents Mental Health services, learning disability team)

Vale pupils and their families have access to support from The Haringey Children with Disabilities Team, a dedicated, specialist team of social workers. We work closely with this team to support children and families.

We work closely with Haringey Educational Psychology Services. We have partnerships with other schools and community organisations in order to enhance the life opportunities of our children. We work with a Creative Partners organisation, the Royal Academy of Dance and Haringey Music Services to enhance our Expressive Arts curriculum. Secondary aged pupils and their families have weekly access to the Open Door psychotherapy service. Pupils at the Primary department also have regular input from a specialist Music teacher, a classical pianist and Flamingo Chicks dance company

Our school is the Youth Sport Trust Project Ability School for North London. As such the school is a specialist school for disability sport and has long standing partnerships with a range of sports organisations and clubs including Tottenham Hotspur Foundation, Panathlon and Middlesex County Cricket Club.

Staff training

We have an excellent, thorough induction process for all new staff. All staff attend regular and school based training to support pupils'

- medical needs (administering medication, emergency medication),
- physical needs (Postural management, Therapy programmes, specialist equipment),
- care needs (feeding including Gastrostomy feeding, personal care, behaviour management).

Staff also have regular training on specific areas, for example:

- Safeguarding(Policies and Procedures)
- Curriculum Development (Sensory Curriculum, Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum)

- Specialist training for Individual learning needs (Down Syndrome, Sensory Impairment, Literacy and Numeracy, ADHD)
- Pupils' Communication and Language Difficulties (Makaton signing, Communication books – PODD system, Communication aids, Individual programmes)
- Health and Safety (Manual Handling, First aid)

Admissions

Admissions may be made at any time of the year into any year group.

The school admits children from Haringey and other neighbouring boroughs. Before admission an initial assessment of the child's learning and medical/therapeutic needs is carried out. Parents/persons with parental responsibility play an important role in this process and are invited to visit the school with their child, talk to the Headteacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team, see the class into which their child may be admitted and talk to appropriate staff.

Visits by Vale staff to the prospective pupil's home or current placement can then be facilitated to ensure effective liaison and a smooth transfer.

All admissions for Haringey residents are made through the Special Education Needs (SEN) of the Local Authority (LA). You can contact Central SEN Services at: 48 Station Road, London, N22 7TY. Tel: 020 8489 387 For admissions from other boroughs, the home borough SEN department will need to be contacted.

How we include children/young people in activities and school trips

- We are proactive in looking for opportunities for children to access any activities at school or within the community which enhance their learning, independence or well-being.

- All children are fully included in a wide range of school trips (including those of its partnership schools) through careful planning, risk assessments, additional support and the use of adapted transport.

- Children have regular lessons within the local area to develop their life skills. These may include, for example learning how to use money through visits to local shops.

- Children have opportunities to go on residential trips or specific day trips supported by Vale staff with input from the therapy teams. Parents are closely involved in preparation of these trips attending planning meetings and individual consultations to discuss the specific needs of their child.

Our school environment

- We have a fully accessible environment for all children, staff and visitors.

- Our buildings are fully wheelchair accessible, including disabled changing and toilet facilities.

- We continually monitor school buildings to ensure pupils who use specialist equipment e.g. wheel chairs frames, can move around freely without experiencing barriers to access.

Our Accessibility Plan is regularly reviewed and updated - please see separate plan.

How we prepare for children/young people joining our school and leaving our school

- We hold initial transition visits with parents to share information and become familiar with your child and their needs.

- If your child is moving from a different school or setting, we liaise with them to share all relevant information and ensure resources are in place prior to start date.

- We hold coffee mornings with Therapy staff and school nurse to meet with new parents and children

- We set up visits for children and parents to join groups(ie tea parties for FS), activities and to experience school life .
- We create transition books with photos of the school environment, staff and peers where appropriate.

How parents are involved in school life

We warmly welcome parents into school for

- A range of regular meetings, eg Pupil Support Plan (PSP) reviews, Team Around the Child (TAC) meetings, Annual Reviews, Parent/teacher consultations.
- Parental Involvement week
- Coffee mornings
- Informal drop-ins to share information

We communicate with parents/carers through:

- Daily communication books where appropriate
- Telephone calls
- Letters
- School text messaging service
- Whole school meetings
- Vale Vibe – our half termly newsletter
- Vale website

We communicate with families whose first language is not English by;

- Having interpreters at meetings- both individual and group.
- Using the skills of staff speaking other community languages to phone and write to families.
- Requesting translated materials if appropriate

We seek parents' views

- In meetings
- Through parental questionnaires
- We welcome parents' phone calls or visits

We have four parent governors who sit on the school governing body.

Who to contact

For more information or to discuss a concern:

Headteacher: Sarah McLay 0208 801 6111

or

Vale Primary Deputy Head teacher: Gillian Weale 0208 801 2299

Vale Secondary Deputy Head teacher: Tony Millard 0208 801 6111

Vale @ Belmont Assistant Headteacher: Charlie Rooney-Norris 0208 888 7140

Email: office@vale.haringey.sch.uk

Website: www.vale.haringey.sch.uk