



SEN Policy

Heathlands School



Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Board.

The policy was agreed by the Full Governing Board on 20.3.24

Next Review due March 2026.

Co-Headteachers Signature:		Date: 15.5.24
Governor Signature:		Date: 15.5.24

Introduction

Heathlands is an all-age special school which meets the Special Education Needs of Children who have:

- A deafness diagnosis
- A requirement or preference for sign language as a means of communication and/or for access to the National Curriculum.

This policy aims to outline the arrangements made to address pupils' Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Further details about the schools' provision is contained in

- The SEN Information Report
- The Accessibility Plan
- The SEN Strategy which forms part of the School Development Plan
- The Admissions Policy

Throughout Heathlands school policies and some paperwork, the term SEND is used in line with the Code of Practice. However as a school we use 'Deaf' rather than 'Hearing Impaired' which has negative connotations. We also use the term 'Deaf Plus' to identify a cohort, which have needs in addition to their deafness, this allows us to reflect our learners more accurately.

Admissions

Hertfordshire LA is the admitting authority for the school. Admission to Heathlands is based on agreed criteria and following consideration by Hertfordshire LA's SEN provision panel.

All children must have an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school. In exceptional circumstances children may be admitted on an assessment placement pending completion of the Education Health and Care Plan.

The school will be consulted by the child's Local Authority and will make an assessment about whether or not needs can be met within the framework of the SEND Code of Practice

Full details on the admissions procedure is contained in the Admissions Policy which explains how admissions to the school are managed in a fair and systematic manner.

Annual Reviews

Annual Reviews of Education Health and Care plans are conducted according to the principles of the SEND Code of Practice (2014). The school uses customised templates which match statutory requirements and ensure a consistent school approach for pupils from a wide number of placing Local Authorities.

Most reviews take place at the end of each academic year with the exception of Key Stage 4 which take place earlier in the school year to facilitate Post16 planning and transfer.

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage will have the opportunity to have reviews on a six monthly basis if their EHCP needs amending.

Inclusion

Heathlands is an inclusive school admitting children who have needs in addition to deafness provided that the main need is their deafness and/or a need to use sign support to access the curriculum.

The school's SEN information report indicates the specialist provision for deaf children and what additional support may be offered to children with needs and /or disabilities in addition to deafness.

Through these measures the school seeks to ensure all pupils have full access and that no children with needs in addition to deafness are treated less favourably than their peers.

The School has an Accessibility Plan as required by the Equality Act 2010 which is reviewed annually and included in the school development plan. This shows what steps the school is taking to improve access to the environment, the curriculum and for those whose first language is not English.

The school is both part of the local community of schools and part of the national network of special schools for deaf children. Links are maintained with a range of schools to promote the inclusion of pupils individually or in class groups, for both one off special events and more regular learning opportunities and activities.

When appropriate to the pupil an individual inclusion programme can be set up in partnership with a mainstream school either on a good will basis to support transition or as a dual placement.

Sign language training offered to local schools' through Heathlands BSL Centre supports the inclusion of deaf pupils in the local community.

Partnership with Parents

Parental involvement is strongly encouraged. We operate an open door policy where parents can make an appointment to come into school at any time. Parents are also welcome to visit the school for special events and to discuss individual progress with class teachers. Parental involvement is encouraged by:

- Parents' consultation evenings
- Parental representation on the Board of Governors
- Sign language classes for families of deaf children
- Sign and Play afternoons
- Parental contributions to EHC Plan reviews
- Home learning activities
- Home school agreement
- The school facebook page and parents' section of the website
- Termly newsletters
- "Friends of Heathlands" – PTA
- Special events and initiatives e.g. Curriculum Twilights
- Parental voluntary help in classrooms or school led activities

School-Based Complaints and Conciliation Procedures

Heathlands School follows Hertfordshire County Council format for school-based complaints and conciliation procedures. Copies of this policy are available from the office and are published on the school's website. We have also produced a booklet for home to school contacts so that all parents have access to information regarding these procedures.

Partnership with Children

In accordance with the Children Act, children have the right to be heard and participate as they are an important source of relevant information. The school is pro-active in its implementation of the voice of the child and seeks to fully involve them in assessment, planning and decision making.

Partnership with other agencies

The school maintains close links with a range of external agencies and services; Health, Education and Social Care to ensure pupils' needs are met.

This includes:

- Deaf child and family team (Deaf CAMHS)
- School nursing service
- Herts LA Service: Audiologist, Educational Psychologist, Multi Sensory Impairment Advisor, Learning Support Services and School Attendance Improvement Officer.
- Physio and Occupational therapists from home area NHS Trusts
- Speech and Language therapists based at school from Herts Community NHS Trust

There is close liaison between the school audiology department and the prescribing ENT/Audiology departments of Health Authorities. The school also works in partnership with a number of specialist cochlear implant centres.