

## **SEND Policy**

### **Introduction**

ETIA Academy is an online educational institution committed to fostering an inclusive learning environment that addresses the diverse needs of all students, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This policy outlines our commitment to identifying, supporting, and providing services for students with SEND, thereby ensuring equal access to high-quality educational resources and opportunities.

### **Aims of the SEND Policy**

1. **Inclusivity:** To create an inclusive atmosphere that values diversity and enables each student, regardless of ability, to excel within an online learning context.
2. **Accessibility:** To ensure that all educational materials and resources are designed and adapted to be fully accessible for students with SEND, thereby facilitating meaningful engagement with the curriculum.
3. **Partnership:** To cultivate strong collaborative relationships among students, parents, educators, and external specialists, thereby creating a comprehensive support network for students with SEND.
4. **Continuous Improvement:** To engage in regular evaluations of our SEND policies and practices, incorporating stakeholder feedback and contemporary research to enhance our provision continuously.

### **Definition of SEND**

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) encompasses a range of challenges that render it more difficult for students to learn compared to their peers. This term includes, but is not limited to:

- **Cognitive Difficulties:** Such as specific learning difficulties including dyslexia and dyscalculia.
- **Communication and Interaction Needs:** Encompassing conditions such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and speech and language impairments that impede effective communication.
- **Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Need:** Covering various issues including anxiety, depression, and other emotional challenges that adversely affect a student's educational engagement.
- **Sensory and Physical Needs:** Including visual and hearing impairments, as well as physical disabilities requiring additional support.

### **Identification of SEND**

ETIA Academy is dedicated to the early identification of SEND to facilitate timely and effective intervention. Our methods of identification include:

- Ongoing Assessments: Implementing regular assessments and progress monitoring, including formal evaluations and informal observations, to identify potential learning difficulties.
- Teacher Observations: Educators receive training to recognise indicators of SEND and are expected to report any concerns promptly.
- Parental Feedback: Insights from parents and guardians regarding their child's development and experiences are highly valued, and we encourage open communication concerning any observed difficulties.
- Collaboration with Specialists: When necessary, we will consult external educational psychologists, speech therapists, and other professionals to gain a comprehensive understanding of a student's needs.

### **Support and Provision**

In addressing the individual needs of students with SEND, ETIA Academy will implement a variety of strategies and provisions:

1. Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs): Each identified student will be provided with a tailored learning plan developed in collaboration with educators, parents, and the students themselves. These plans will outline specific objectives, strategies for achievement, and methods of assessment. (Appendix A)
2. Diverse Resources and Accommodations: We are committed to providing appropriate educational resources and accommodations, which may include:
  - Access to assistive technology (e.g., text-to-speech software).
  - Modifications to assignments and assessments, such as extended time or alternative formats.
  - Utilisation of visual aids and interactive resources to enhance understanding.
3. Strengthening Teacher Skills: Ongoing professional development will be provided for educators, focusing on effective strategies for supporting students with SEND. This training will cover differentiation techniques, an understanding of specific learning needs, and the integration of technology in educational practices.
4. Monitoring Progress: The progress of students will be monitored closely through regular assessments and feedback to ensure the effectiveness of support provided. Adjustments to PLPs will be made as required.

### **Partnership with Parents and Guardians**

ETIA Academy recognises the essential role of parents and guardians in supporting their child's education. To facilitate this partnership, we will include:

- Regular Communication: Ensure parents are informed through consistent updates regarding their child's progress and any concerns about SEND. This will include scheduled check-ins and progress reports.
- Involvement in Planning: Actively involve parents in crafting and reviewing their child's Personalised Learning Plan, ensuring that their insights and experiences inform the support strategies implemented.
- Providing Resources: Offer guidance and resources for parents to assist in learning at home, including access to external resources, workshops, and online support groups.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

To ascertain the effectiveness of our SEND policy and practices, we will implement a structured monitoring and evaluation process:

- Assessment of Student Progress: Continuous assessment through various methods, including formal evaluations and feedback, to gauge student engagement and learning outcomes.
- Feedback Mechanisms: Establish accessible feedback channels through surveys for students and parents to gather insights regarding the efficacy of SEND support.
- Annual Reviews: Conduct annual reviews of Personalised Learning Plans and SEND provisions to evaluate their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments based on the evolving needs of students and best practices.

### **Conclusion**

ETIA Academy is devoted to ensuring that all students, particularly those with SEND, have equitable access to quality online education. Through this comprehensive SEND policy, we endeavour to create an enriching and supportive learning environment that empowers every student to realise their full potential. Regular reviews and updates to this policy will reflect our commitment to improving educational outcomes and support for students with SEND.

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure compliance with relevant legislation, reflect advancements in best practices, and address the changing needs of our student population.