



LEICESTER THERAPEUTIC SCHOOL

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS THROUGH NURTURE AND MINDSET

Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy and Information Report

Policy Owner	Leicester Therapeutic School
Date Published	January 2026
Date of Next Review	September 2026
Ratified by Governing Body	January 2026
Circulation	All Staff
Linked Policies	Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Inclusion and Behaviour Policy Curriculum Policy Assessment Policy SEND Code of Practice Equality Statement Accessibility Plan
ISS Regulatory Requirements	Part 1 Quality of Education Part 6 Provision of Information Part 8 Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Safeguarding at Leicester Therapeutic School

At Leicester Therapeutic School, we are committed to providing an environment in which students feel safe and secure to access their education. All stakeholders are responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of children. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and all staff are encouraged to maintain an "it could happen here" attitude. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying. Leicester Therapeutic School are dedicated to creating a strong safeguarding culture, and that the safety and well-being of children is the central thread that embeds itself through all aspects of the school. If a person is concerned about anything they read, witness or hear with regards to the school, they should contact the school's designated safeguarding lead immediately or Headteacher. Safeguarding, and the safety and well-being of all pupils at Leicester Therapeutic School is carefully considered and a central theme through all school policies.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) at Leicester Therapeutic School

At Leicester Therapeutic School, we are passionate about providing an inclusive education to children with special educational needs. We recognise and celebrate the individuality of our pupils and use personalised approaches, allowing pupils with SEND to feel supported during the school day. We strive to provide pupils with the same opportunities and experiences that pupils would have received at a mainstream school, believing passionately that in the right environment, with the right support, pupils will flourish in education. We do this by focusing on providing a SEND friendly environment, a differentiated, multi-sensory curriculum and a strong focus on developing pupils' personal, social and emotional development. The special educational needs and disabilities of all pupils at Leicester Therapeutic School is carefully considered and a central theme through all school policies. For more information, please read the school's SEND Information Report.

1. Policy Aims

Leicester Therapeutic School SEND policy and information report aims to:

- Set out how our school will support and make provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEND
- Provide a caring, nurturing and empowering environment that recognizes the individuality of every child and supports their cognitive, communicative and emotional needs.
- Provide high-quality tuition to all our pupils delivered by specialist trained staff with a thorough understanding of cognition and learning needs and Autism
- Enable previously disengaged children and young people to rediscover a love of learning and a belief in their own abilities so that they achieve academic qualifications within their abilities and are able to move on to further education and future employment.
- Provide holistic, co-operative support to the individual needs of every child, drawing on the expertise of teaching staff, learning support staff, therapists, pastoral support staff, external agencies, local authorities, and parents.

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy and information report is based on the statutory [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#) and the following legislation:

- [Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEN and disabilities
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHCP) plans, SEN coordinators (SENCOs) and the SEN information report

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Definitions

A pupil has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. They have a learning difficulty or disability if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age, or
- A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Every member of staff has a responsibility to ensure that pupils with SEND are included and able to access all areas of school life.

It is the headteacher's responsibility to:

- Oversee and maintain this policy in cooperation with the chair of governors at Leicester Therapeutic School and the board of directors to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school.
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEN policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils.
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and work with staff and other agencies to ensure that pupils receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching and learning.
- Ensure that parents are fully involved in supporting their child's needs by maintaining good communication channels and play an active role in the review process.
- Contribute to the professional development of all education, therapy and care staff as necessary in order for all staff to take responsibility for meeting the needs of students at Leicester Therapeutic School.
- Liaise with therapy staff and inclusion team to ensure that pupils get the additional support they need.
- Be the point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority and its support services.
- Liaise with the director of education for personal development and with potential next providers of education to ensure pupils and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned.
- Work with the headteacher, senior leadership team and board of directors to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- Ensure the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEND up to date.
- Establish clear links other school policies, such as the exclusions policy and safeguarding policy cross-refer to the SEND policy where appropriate.

SEND support

SEND support at Leicester Therapeutic School is: **Helen Dixon**

SEND support is responsible for:

- To be an additional communication strand for parents and other professionals when discussing pupils at Leicester Therapeutic School.
- To plan, prepare and deliver annual reviews for pupils at Leicester Therapeutic School, under the guidance and direction of the Headteacher.
- To gather accurate information from colleagues about the progress pupils are making towards their EHCPs.

- To maintain current knowledge of educational initiatives and developments at both local and national level
- To develop the SEND provision at Leicester Therapeutic School in line with the School Development Plan.
- Under the direction of the headteacher, assist them in other duties.
- To provide advice, support and training to school staff in order that provision is made to meet the needs of individual children and young people with a range of SEND
- To support staff in implementing strategies to improve access to the curriculum for children and young people with a range of SEND where appropriate.
- Liaise with external agencies, including SALT and OT to ensure programmes are in place to meet pupils needs.

Classroom Teachers

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- The progress and development of every pupil in their class.
- Creating and maintaining individual student learning profiles, Individual education plans and risk assessments.
- Working closely with any learning support assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.
- Ensure that the curriculum for pupils with SEND is ambitious, engaging and adequality prepares pupils for the next stages of their lives.
- Working with the headteacher to review each pupil's progress and development and decide on any changes to provision. Contribute to annual review reports.
- Ensuring they implement this SEND policy.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- Hold the headteacher to account for the effective implementation of the SEND Policy and Information Report.

5. The SEND Information Report

Leicester Therapeutic School is a non-maintained independent specialist school with primary provision. We cater for pupils with special educational needs including cognition and learning difficulties as well as autism and associated difficulties. All of our pupils and students have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

SEND Provision

Our school currently provides additional and/or different provision for a range of needs associated with or in addition to cognition and learning needs including autism. These include:

- Communication and interaction, for example speech and language difficulties
- Specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia,
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties, for example, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or pathological demand avoidance (PDA)
- Sensory and/or physical needs, for example visual impairments, hearing impairments, processing difficulties, hypermobility, cystic fibrosis

Consulting Pupils and Parents

The SEND support practitioner liaises closely with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, class teachers and parents/carers to ensure;

- A smooth transition into Leicester Therapeutic School, developing a personalised transition plan in cooperation with parents, where necessary.
- Considering the parents' views through meetings upon admission or on demand, and through the annual review of the student's EHCP.
- Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child.
- Parents views are taken into account.
- If there is a need to call an interim EHCP review because their special educational needs have changed. In such cases, parents will be required to attend the interim review and provide information indicating their views on the next steps in meeting their child's needs.
- In the rare event of an extended, fixed term exclusion, to consider alternative provision for their child, parents will be required to attend the emergency review of the EHCP to share their views.

Assessing and Reviewing Pupils' Progress Towards Outcomes

We will assess each pupil's skills and baseline levels of attainment on entry. This will build on records from previous settings, observation and assessment by class teachers and baseline testing.

Class teachers and members of the therapy team will measure and review achievement and additional support needs through:

- Ongoing teaching staff observation.
- Formative and summative assessment of progress for all pupils across social skills, behavioural presentations, therapeutic and educational outcomes.
- Creating and evaluating half-termly SMART targets in Individual Education Plans based on identified outcomes in the student's EHCP.
- Mid-year reports.
- The views and experience of parents.
- Scrutiny of pupils' work across all subjects showing the gains they are making in learning more and remembering more as part of sequencing in their learning.
- The pupil's own voice.
- Advice from external support services, where relevant

The range of assessments will be triangulated and reviewed regularly. All teachers and support staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided, and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required. The headteacher will regularly review the effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress.

Supporting Pupils with Transitions moving between phases and to their next setting

We will share information with the school or other setting the pupil is moving to. We will agree with parents which information will be shared as part of this. The young person will be supported through the initial and following stages of the implementation of an agreed comprehensive transition plan. They will be supported through accompanied acclimatisation visits, sharing of outcomes, information and strategies and induction material and visits.

The SEND support practitioner works closely with the Headteacher to support by:

- Helping students develop their independence for transition and through providing essential experiences through their curriculum.
- Supporting pupils access to reading and improve their reading ages.
- Liaising with local authorities' planning coordinators alternative and/or secondary placements.
- Undertaking annual reviews of the child's EHCP focusing on transition. This will take place at the end of Year 5, or when a child is moving to a new setting. Where the emerging changing needs will be discussed by all stakeholders including parents to ensure a smooth transition to the next phase of education.

Our approach to SEND teaching at Leicester Therapeutic School

At Leicester Therapeutic School we endeavour to encourage a love for learning for all pupils, including through:

- The delivery of an ambitious multi-sensory curriculum through high quality teaching and learning support where reasonable adjustments will be made as necessary through the involvement of therapists in planning, support, assessment, and review as appropriate.
- Low-arousal, autism friendly and trauma informed classroom environments with access to sensory rooms, time-out cards, fiddle toys, visual timetables, quiet spaces, sensory circuits and outside areas.
- Small groups and individual support where needed.
- Differentiated teaching, for example, giving longer processing times, pre-teaching of key vocabulary, etc. including access arrangements and reasonable adjustments such as access to reader/scribe, laptops, larger font etc.
- A broad and balanced curriculum, considering the needs and aptitudes of pupils with autism and associated identified need.

Our interventions and therapy offer and support:

We provide the following therapeutic and support input, upon referral with timings and frequency agreed with the headteacher, consistent with the provision specified in each pupil's EHCP:

- Individual, group based and universal Speech and Language therapy input (direct and classroom based)
- Individual, group based and universal Occupational Therapy input (direct and classroom based)
- Individual, group based and universal Thrive programmes
- Emotional Literacy support (ELSA)
- Mental health support
- Lego Therapy
- ELKLAN support
- Individual literacy, phonics and numeracy intervention

- School leadership team, school trips, essential experiences, personal development and SMSC plans
- Anti-bullying policy
- Trauma informed learning spaces
- Phonics – Unlocking letters and sounds
- General reading support
- Maths intervention (direct and classroom based)
- Enrichment activities

Staff Qualifications and Training

Leicester Therapeutic School is a SEN School, where the staff team of educationalists, therapists, and pupil development team are all experienced in supporting children with SEN and have all undergone a full induction training programme and ongoing CPD, that addresses and discusses the range of presentations that the children may exhibit. The strategies that will be employed as a whole school setting to support each child will form part of the training and be under regular review.

- All Classroom Teachers and Learning Support Assistants are trained in Unlocking letters and sounds
- All staff receive specialist SEND training for Autism and other SEND needs through in-house training, online training modules and ongoing CPD, this is an ongoing program and part of which forms the induction program.
- All staff receive both internal and external CPD on delivering and supporting a multi-sensory curriculum through the academic year.
- The school employs an external Speech and Language Therapist.
- The school uses an external Occupational Therapist.
- All staff are team teach trained

Evaluating the Effectiveness of SEN Provision

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils by:

- Reviewing pupils' individual progress towards their goals each term through creating and evaluating individual education plans
- Reviewing the impact of interventions after an agreed number of weeks, according to the nature of the therapeutic intervention.
- Creating and reviewing pupils' positive behaviour support plans on a half termly basis or after changes in presentation, whichever comes sooner.
- Consulting parents through discussions and use of parent questionnaires.
- Pupil questionnaires
- Using feedback questionnaires from external agencies such as social workers, virtual schools and local authority officers
- Monitoring of SEND provision by Senior Leaders through termly learning walks, specific child focused learning walks by the SEND support practitioner prior to annual reviews, agreed psychometric testing to advise on learning input by SEND support practitioner, weekly coaching sessions, folder trawls and data check.
- Holding annual reviews for pupils EHC plans

Engaging in Leicester Therapeutic School personal development curriculum:

All of our personal development opportunities and school visits are available to all our pupils.

- All pupils are encouraged to attend visitor sessions.
- All pupils are encouraged to take part in sports day/school plays/special workshops.
- All pupils are supported to complete essential experiences inside and outside of school.
- No pupil is ever excluded from taking part in these activities because of their SEN or disability.

Working with external agencies:

As part of our Assessment and Admission process all relevant agencies are involved in the admission of a child to our School. Establishing all relevant contacts such as (GPs, CAMHs, Social Services, therapists etc.) and initiating, enabling and sustaining ongoing professional dialogue ensures a comprehensive team of professionals are supporting the child. The school will seek the views of the parent and the child in this multi-agency process.

Complaints about SEN Provision

We believe that good and continuous communication between home and school is key for the success and wellbeing of the child and parents should always, where possible, contact the child's class teacher as first point of call. Parents who wish to make a complaint should contact the Headteacher about any concerns regarding teaching and learning in general and the SEND support practitioner regarding any concerns about SEND provision not being met. The complaints policy and procedure is available on the school's website.

Contact details for raising concerns about safeguarding

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Gurjinder Sahota
Email: gsahota@leicesterts.co.uk

The local authorities' local offer

Our local authorities' local offer is published here:

Leicester City Council- [Leicester city local offer](#)

Leicestershire County Council- [Leicestershire County's local offer](#)

Northampton council- [Northampton's Local offer](#)

6. Monitoring Arrangements

The impact of the implementation of this policy will be monitored annually by the headteacher, who will focus on how effectively teachers are adapting the curriculum for pupils with different SEND needs and how LSAs are supporting those needs. The headteacher will also look at the overall effectiveness of SEND interventions by staff and the support provided by the multi-disciplinary team including SALT and OT. The outcomes of this monitoring will be reported to the Headteacher and be reported to the Governing Board annually.

It will also be updated if any changes to the information are made during the year. The SEN governor (when appointed) will monitor the work of the headteacher in implementing this policy and will consider changing demands on SEND provision reporting this to the governing board. It will be approved by the Headteacher who will also evaluate its impact as part of the school's self-evaluation process and changes to this policy will be agreed by the Headteacher and be ratified by the Governing Body.