

## SEND Policy

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| Schedule 10 Of The Equality Act 2010<br>Schedule 13 Of The Equality Act 2010 | Accessibility for Disabled Students Education:<br>Reasonable Adjustments                                                                                                                                          |
| Applies to                                                                   | All students in college and boarding premises                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Approved by                                                                  | I certify I have reviewed this policy and verify that to the best of my knowledge it reflects current legislation and is in accordance with my wishes and the Board of Directors<br><br>Martin Meenagh, Principal |
| Annual Review                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Reviewed                                                                     | November 2018                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Next review date                                                             | August 2019                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Reviewed by                                                                  | Jake Connor                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

### 1. Background

Chelsea Independent College is an academically non-selective College that admits students into GCSE, A Level, International Foundation Year (IFY) programmes and Level 3 Diploma's. The College is keenly aware that addressing individual learning needs is the key to student success and this policy therefore aims to provide a framework for the support of learning throughout the College. The College maintains a SEND register.

### 2. Aim of the College's policy (ISI Regulatory Requirements Part 1, Regulation 2.2 (b), (e), (i); Part 1, Regulation 3 (d))

Chelsea Independent College aims to enable students with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) to achieve their full potential by:

- Working with the students concerned to enhance their learning skills and abilities;
- Working with their teachers to ensure the best programmes of study for each student;
- Working with outside agencies, where necessary, to enable the greatest access to opportunities for student progress in their College work, in their programmes of examination, and in their future study or careers.

### **3. Objectives of learning support provision**

- To provide appropriate material resources and suitable advice to support students with SEND who are on the SEND register
- To provide support and advice to students, where appropriate, who do not have a specific SEND, and yet have been identified as having specific difficulties with the curriculum
- To develop a partnership with all members of the teaching staff to ensure that there is a positive approach to the learning of those with SEND.
- To maintain links with parents/carers regarding the progress of those who are on the SEND register.

### **4. SEND defined**

A student is defined as having SEND if:

- a) He or She has a more significant and greater difficulty than the majority of students of the same age;
- b) He or She has a disability preventing or hindering them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for students of the same age in Colleges within the area of the Local Authority.
- c) We identify four areas of need:
  - Cognitive and learning needs – including specific learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia)
  - Social, Emotional and Mental Health development needs
  - Communication and interaction needs – including autistic spectrum disorders
  - Sensory and/or physical needs – including visual or hearing impairments

### **5. Admissions policy**

The College must feel confident that a prospective student will benefit from the education offered so that there is no reasonable doubt at the time of admission that he/she will have a complete, happy and successful education at Chelsea Independent College.

At the application stage and also later in the admissions process parents are given the opportunity to notify the College of any SEND needs affecting their son or daughter of which the college should be aware.

The parents of a student with an existing SEND are requested to submit copies of Educational Psychologist's report or statutory Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan to admissions, who will then submit the files to the SENCo. The SENCo will review all documents provided to establish whether any reasonable adjustments within the college and curriculum are required if the candidate is successful with their application. The SENCo will report their initial thoughts to the Principal, if necessary, for their consideration.

A meeting may be arranged between the student, their parents/carers, and SENCo, so that, if necessary, steps to accommodate the needs of the student can be arranged well in advance of admission. If a student is accepted into the College with known SEND, the College (acting upon the advice of the SENCo) will make reasonable adjustments to meet his/her needs. The College will agree with the parents and student on how the needs of the student can best be met. If a student is accepted into the College and their needs become identified at a later stage, the College will assess how best to meet those needs in consultation with the parents, the student and any external agencies which are felt appropriate.

Failure to disclose information regarding SEND issues may result in the College being unable to offer an adequate level of support. This can cause unnecessary delay in providing adequate support to the student and thereby hinder their progress.

## **6. Identification of students with SEND**

The College aims to identify students with SEND in the following ways:

- By the receipt of information from a previous College or other educational establishment;
- By the provision of information by parents as described above;
- By the raising of concerns from members of staff about the learning progress of a student;
- By reviewing the progress of all students within the College through the reporting system.

## **7. The SEND Register**

The SEND Register records the current status of all those students within the College who have been identified as having SEND. The Register is reviewed regularly and includes the nature of the student's difficulties.

The Register is kept within the SEND department to be viewed by the SENCo, a condensed version which has clearer information and advice is issued and made available to all teaching staff throughout the academic year and, the document is titled 'SEN Students - All Staff List', and is a working document which is updated throughout the year. This allows for staff to have up-to-date information about, not just the students they teach, but all our students. A hard copy is not kept and staff are encouraged to not print the document due to the sensitive information it withholds.

## **8. Support for students Procedure**

Students receive support for their learning at Chelsea Independent College as follows:

*Stage 1: Concern raised.* Concerns may be raised by any member of staff at any stage in a student's career in the College or indeed by a student or parent/career.

*Stage 2: Feedback.* The SENCo will ask for feedback on the student from all of his/her teachers and review the student's academic progress.

*Stage 3: Student meeting.* The SENCo will aim to meet with the student as soon as possible, usually within two weeks of receiving the initial concern.

*Stage 4: Assessment of student needs.* In the light of the student meeting, the SENCo will discuss the needs of the student with the referring teacher. At this stage it will be usual for some feedback to be given to parents on the outcome of the appraisal. The student may then be placed on the SEND register and the level of support required will be determined.

*Stage 5: Student in Learning Support.* At an early stage, an Individual Education Plan may be prepared and circulated to relevant teachers. This will aim to highlight targets for both the student and his/her teachers in order to enable learning to be more effective.

*Stage 6: Conclusion of programme of support and reassessment.* At the end of a defined period the regular lessons of support for most students are concluded and a review is carried out of their progress by the SENCo.

*Stage 7: Review of cycle.* The student will be reassessed and;

- If the student has not made sufficient progress they will remain on the Register and new targets will be set to further support them;
- If the student has made sufficient progress they will be removed from the Register.

## **9. Support for teachers**

Teachers are supported in their teaching of students with SEND in the following ways:

- Staff INSET (at regular intervals, as part of the cycle of compulsory training; all new staff receive an induction session on SEND);
- Information contained in the 'SEN Students - All Staff List';
- Advice given within curriculum area meetings when it is clear that there are particular issues relating to a subject
- Provision of IEPs; teachers are aware of these IEPs for the students they teach, must read them and act on advice and strategies recommended insofar as they are relevant to their subject.
- Teachers are also encouraged to contribute to the IEPs that are set for the SEND students

## **10. Assistance from outside agencies**

The SENCo can provide links with other advisers who are able to assist when required in additional support for students with SEND. They can carry out diagnostic assessments and provide specific feedback to parents/careers on any assessments which have been conducted. This feedback may indicate that a student's difficulties are potentially associated with a given diagnosis and further investigations are needed. It is the responsibility of parents to cover all costs relating to consultations, assessments and reports.

Where a student has an EHC plan prepared by the LA, the College will work with this body to ensure that the provisions of the EHC plan are addressed and that the relevant IEPs are prepared and enacted according to the relevant statutory requirements. (ISI Regulatory Requirements Part 1, Regulation 2 (2) (e)). It is the duty of the SENCo to advise teachers on the particular needs of the student and the recommended strategies for teaching him/her.

For any student with a SEND or EAL issue, we take every reasonable step we can to ensure his/her welfare. Such students, in the interests of their welfare, will sometimes require an amendment to the normal programme of study, whilst at the same time being given equal access to the academic curriculum.

For students with an EHC plan the SENCo will chair a full annual review, with, in attendance, representatives from the local authority.

## **11. Students with EAL needs**

The College conducts its learning in English and there is an expectation that all students are able to communicate effectively in English. This is assessed during the admissions process through the interview. In practice, all students for whom English is an additional language will attend English for Academic

Purposes (EAP) classes and undertake the IELTS test. Students will not be allowed to leave the English for Academic Purposes classes until they reach a level 6.5 in their IELTS (or equivalent) examination.

Subject to compliance with JCQ regulations, special provision in examinations can be provided where necessary, and in day-to-day life students with EAL requirements are encouraged to bring and use bilingual dictionaries. It is our experience that those coming to us with significant language needs invariably fall into the 'gifted and talented range', and a means for allowing access to 'gifted and talented' provision is always found amongst the adjustments that have to be made for the acquisition of good quality English. It is important to note that with effect from summer 2015, an EAL learner no longer automatically receives additional time for examinations.

To enable us to provide all necessary support at the critical point of entry, we ask at application for details from parents of their son's/daughter's ability in English and language background. Additionally the interview process allows us not only to identify potential students with EAL, but also the level of support they may require. Those who are deemed likely to need support are given a further, qualitative assessment which is used to inform a scheme of support, if it is seen to be required.

## **12. Gifted and talented students**

Such students are identified at the point of entry (through previous examination results and at interview), 'gifted and talented' students are identified as A\* potential candidates. Alternatively, a student may become part of the A\* candidates register in subsequent weeks after showing outstanding talent throughout the year (measured in part by the academic tracking system and/or in internal examinations). Such students' ability is fostered both in and outside the normal curriculum. It is usual for them to be offered extension work in many of their subject areas. In lessons, teachers are expected to provide differentiated work for these students and provide work suited to their talents and abilities; lessons provided in Years 12 and 13 as preparation for candidates applying to Oxford, Cambridge, LNAT and BMAT are open to all able students who wish to extend their knowledge and academic skills.

## **13. Access Arrangements for public and internal exams**

The Examinations Officer and SENCo will review the needs of identified students for access arrangements in both public and internal exams and will ensure that such needs, when compliant with JCQ regulations, are met whenever possible.

If a student is believed to require access arrangements during examinations, and does not have medical evidence or EHC plan to support this, then an assessment will need to be carried out by an external assessor that the college uses. These assessment will be done on site and determine whether the student is eligible for access arrangements and in particular which ones.

For public examinations access arrangements will be made in accordance with the regulations set out by the Joint Council for Qualifications ([www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk)). An assessment for such access arrangements will be carried out by the Examinations Officer in liaison with the SENCo. Parents/Carers should be advised that these assessments are to provide evidence that an access arrangement is required by the student and are not diagnostic.

For internal examinations such as EPPs and Mocks, extra time, the use of a word processor or other alternative access arrangements will be granted following a successful application. Please see Appendix 1 which outlines our laptop and word processor policy.

## **Appendix 1 - Guidelines on the use of Laptops and Word Processors**

The College recognises that for some students with specific learning difficulties a laptop may be the most appropriate method of organising and presenting their work. Students are allowed to use a laptop in College as their normal, routine way of working where a need has been established and where appropriate training has been undertaken.

### **A. Use of a Laptop**

Students will be allowed to use a laptop in College as their routine, normal way of working under the following conditions:

- A Specific Learning Difficulty (such as Dyslexia or Dyspraxia for example) has been identified and use of a laptop is recommended and approved by the College.
- The Principal approves the use of a laptop as the normal method of working.
- The student has been using the laptop as her/his routine way of working in any subject where she/he wishes to use a word processor (WP) in an examination and has had specific practice and rehearsal in the use of a WP under examination conditions.

It is recommended that students receive training to ensure that typing is efficient, accurate and of sufficient speed to be able to cope in class: as a guide, we would expect 30 to 40 words per minute, depending on age.

Students must have been using a word processor as their routine, normal method of working throughout the recent years of their education for the use of a word processor to be permitted in an examination whether the latter is an internal or external, public examination.

### **B. Limitations to Laptop Use**

A subject teacher has the right to veto the use of a laptop in particular situations:

- Where its use might be dangerous or problematic e.g. in a particular experiment in Chemistry;
- Where particular exercises should not be done with computer assistance e.g. maps and diagrams;
- Where calculations are required without the assistance of computer functions such as in Mathematics;
- If an individual student, in any lesson, is using a laptop in such a way as to cause a distraction or disturbance to the learning of others.

While we do not currently enter students for examinations where any part of the syllabus requires coursework to be completed in handwriting, such examinations do exist and we may revise our laptop policy accordingly as syllabi change nationally.

### **C. Detailed Procedures**

- Students should not always expect to have access to mains power and are therefore advised to have a spare battery.
- All written work, which would normally be done in exercise books during lessons, is to be printed out nightly at home and filed appropriately so that students possess a hard copy of all their work filed in ring binders or pasted into exercise books.
- Students should use a plain font (e.g. Times New Roman, Arial, Verdana) and allow room for teachers' comments.

- Spell Check cannot normally be used on all pieces of work, specifically in examinations.
- If there are problems with a laptop during lessons, the student should immediately stop using it and switch to pen and paper.
- In public examinations students will use a College word processor.
- Students should not expect the College's technicians to maintain their machines or undertake repairs to them.
- Students should backup their work on to a separate hard drive and/or memory stick on a regular basis – ideally weekly, but at the very least at each half term. The cost of losing a term/year's work, particularly in public examination years through a computer crash can be very considerable, both literally and in terms of stress.
- The College does not accept liability for damage to or loss of any laptop computers, which will remain the responsibility of the owner at all times. Adequate insurance cover should be arranged by parents to cover damage or loss.
- Only the relevant software applications will be available when using a word processor in an examination; wireless internet connection, spell check, grammar check and the thesaurus will not be enabled. There will be instructions informing candidates how to set up documents with all the relevant personal details.