

## South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium Studio School SEND Information Report 2022-2023

### Definition of SEND

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions

(Special educational needs and disability code of practice:0 to 25 years, Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities, January 2015)

### SEND Department information and contact details

- SENDCo: Ian Squires, currently completing the National Award for SENDCo, University of Plymouth. [isquires@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:isquires@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk)
- Deputy SENDCo: Rachael Mitchelmore [rmitchelmore@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:rmitchelmore@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk)
- CAIRB Teacher: Natasha Rose [nrose@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:nrose@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk)
- SEND Administrator: Debbie Davies. [ddavies@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:ddavies@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk)
- A team of Teaching Assistants (this number varies, depending on the number of students identified with high needs or with Education Health and Care Plans.) Teaching Assistant support is allocated on the basis of needs. We do not to allocate Teaching Assistants to individual students as we want to encourage the independence of our students.
- Provision for students with SEND and the role of the SENDCo is overseen by the SEND Governor, Chris Aston

### Parental voice and views

South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium Studio School appreciate that parents know their children best and it is important that we, as professionals listen and understand when parents express concerns about their child's development. South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium Studio School will also listen to and address any concerns raised by children and young people themselves.

South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium Studio School provides a twice-yearly report for parents on each child's progress. There are multiple opportunities for parents and

carers to contact the SEND Department: at the 'Settling In Evening' in the Autumn Term, at Progress Evenings and at the dedicated SEND Surgeries scheduled throughout the year. Interim and Annual Reviews are also held annually. In addition to this, the school has an 'open door' policy and parents can discuss informally about their child's progress but are encouraged to make a formal appointment with the teacher or SENDCO should they wish to discuss concerns they have.

## **Student voice and views**

It is important that all professionals listen, understand and address any concerns raised by children and young people themselves.

South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium Studio School will:

- Make arrangements for providing children, their parents, and young people with SEND or disabilities with advice and information about matters relating to SEND and disability on their website or at school via the SENDCO
- Ensure decisions are informed by the insights of parents and those of children and young people themselves
- Inform students when they are making special educational provision for them and have processes in place for the students to provide feedback
- Ensure students are aware of the planned support and interventions
- Ensure a clear date for reviewing progress is agreed and the parent or carer, student and teaching staff are clear about how they will help the student achieve the expected outcomes
- Be aware that a child's parents, or children themselves have specific rights to request an Education, Health and Care needs assessment and should feel able to tell their school if they believe they have or may have SEND.
- Carry out Annual Reviews through an appropriate person-centered planning process
- Hold regular parent meetings, with the child or young person, as appropriate, to discuss student progress
- Establish processes to facilitate feedback from all students, including students with SEND, via Student Voice
- Put the child or young person and their family at the heart of planning and reviewing provision
- Encourage the active participation of the student

## **External Agencies**

The SEND department works very closely with external services including:

- Educational Psychology
- Devon Education Service Communication and Interaction Team
- Speech and Language Services
- Devon Education Service SEMH Team
- Devon Dyslexia Service
- Devon Education Service Advisory Teachers: Hearing or Visual impairment
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

- Educational Welfare Service (attendance)
- College Nurse
- Integrated Therapy Services, including Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy

### Identifying when students need extra help

- Through information gathered from the primary schools during the Year 5 transfer reviews and the Year 6 EHCP reviews prior to the transfer to South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium Studio School.
- GL assessments in Literacy and Numeracy testing can be carried out in the Autumn Term for Year 7 and 8.
- Screening for Literacy and Numeracy using the Lexia and IDL intervention packages.
- Tracking and monitor student progress on a regular basis
- Observations in class
- Teacher feedback following the **graduated response process**. More details on how additional needs are identified using the Devon Graduated Response Tool can be found in the **Parent Guide** document – located in the SEND page on the website
- Parental concerns
- Student concerns
- Form Tutor, subject teacher and Pastoral Leader concerns

### Provision for students with special educational needs

Teaching staff will support students at a level appropriate to their needs through effective differentiation in the classroom. All students will access high quality teaching which takes account of their differing needs and abilities.

Students requiring more specific intervention to access the curriculum may be supported in a range of ways, for example:

- Ensuring a bespoke, tailored and personalised approach for students with complex needs
- Using our best endeavors to secure the special educational provision called for by the child or young person's needs
- Make appropriate use of the resources in the delegated budget to support children and young people with additional needs
- Use knowledge and understanding of the four primary areas of need to plan provision and to focus on interventions that are relevant and evidence-based
- Refer to the Devon SEND provision matrices document for support to tailor provision to provide an individualised support programme for students with more complex needs
- Shared in-class support from a Teaching Assistant.
- Personalised intervention programmes to meet specific needs.
- Where and when needed, seek further advice from advisory services and outside agencies about removing barriers to learning linked to different areas of need

## **Monitoring progress**

South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium Studio School monitor student progress on a regular basis and communicate this information effectively to parents. The school will provide the following information and opportunities for discussion:

- Assessment point data twice a year monitoring academic progress and attitude to learning.
- Progress Evenings
- SEND Surgeries - at these a student's Pupil Passport will be reviewed by a member of the SEND department.
- Communication with parents through email and telephone calls from the school.
- Information about rewards and sanctions via the SIMs parent app
- Annual Review Meetings, for students with an EHCP.
- Data and reports from specific intervention programmes such as Lexia.
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## **Adaptations to the curriculum and learning environment**

This is done on an individual basis where the need is identified for a student to have a more personalised curriculum. Most students follow the same curriculum as their peers, perhaps with minor adjustments. Every SEND student at South Dartmoor and The Atrium benefits from 'Quality First Teaching'. Teachers are expected to support students by differentiating the lesson content to meet the needs of all. Where students have complex needs, teachers are supported by the SEND Team, with support from the Deputy SENDCO and teaching assistants.

## **Support for emotional and social development**

All students are supported through the pastoral system. Each student has a Form Tutor who takes them through the 5 or 7 years at South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium. Weekly meetings are led by the Pastoral team, Heads of Year, and Tutors. The SENDCO and Deputy SENDCO work closely with all year teams and attend these meetings with a specific SEND focus. At these meetings students who are of concern for academic and/or emotional issues will be discussed and appropriate interventions identified. These students are then carefully monitored. We adopt a graduated response in all situations. Students with SEND may also have a key pastoral worker, who offers support with organisation, emotional needs and liaises with the SEND department. The SEND Department also have a weekly meeting where students concerns are raised.

All students who are identified with concerns about their well-being will be offered appropriate interventions including:

- Support from the College nurse
- Support from the counselling or chaplaincy services
- Access to clubs
- Reward programmes

- Access to the Hub for additional support
- Support from the College mental health lead
- Careers advice support from other agencies, as appropriate
- SEND lunchtime clubs

## **Students with medical conditions**

Students with specific health conditions will have an Individual Health Care Plan. A designated member of staff is responsible for Health Care Plans which will be drawn up in consultation with the SENDCo, parent/carers and other health professionals as necessary. This will outline the arrangements for administering medication and provide advice for staff in the event of an emergency. Staff will take note of the Health Care Plans when arranging any curriculum enrichment activity.

## **Safeguarding**

If we have any concerns that a student is at risk we will always follow our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. This means the child's welfare is the paramount concern, over-riding concerns for staff and parents/carers. We will involve external agencies if we consider this to be in the child's best interests.

The Child Protection Officer for South Dartmoor Community College and Atrium is Dan Vile. The DSL for South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium is Caleb Stevens.

## **Staff training**

Training for teaching students with Special Educational Needs is considered essential. There is an on-going programme of whole college training in teaching and supporting students. This training includes; whole staff inset on SEND, CPD pop ups for SEND, and SEND topics scheduled into whole College staff meetings.

## **Inclusion in extra curricular activities**

As stated in our college aims, we expect all children to participate in enrichment activities and we will endeavor to overcome any barriers to inclusion. If students require additional adults to help them access trips, a member of the SEND team can accompany them.

## **Accessibility of the college environment?**

All areas of the college site are accessible and, if necessary, we will adjust timetables to ensure children have full access to their curriculum. You will find our accessibility plan on the college website

## **Support with transitions**

We gather a lot of information about your child from their primary school, and any agencies involved, for the best possible preparation for them joining South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium. This is usually in Year 6, but when a child has more complex needs the process of transfer may begin earlier, sometimes even in Year 4. In addition to the usual induction days for all students, vulnerable students (not necessarily all children with SEN) are invited to additional transition days in the college to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings and to take part in a tailored transition programme.

South Dartmoor Community College and The Atrium has an excellent Sixth Form and all students are supported to make the transition to study in Year 12 and 13. We also have links with all the Post 16 providers locally, and have a strong tradition of supporting students to find the most appropriate course for them.

As students' progress through the college they are given the opportunity to meet an external Careers Advisor, who will offer personalised support. Students also have the opportunity to meet with our careers advisor and members of the SEN Leadership Team. As students transition between key stages there is also a thorough options process to support them with their future planning.

### **Deciding how students receive support**

The decision-making process is informed by the data and information provided by all agencies involved. We also follow the graduated response. Support is then personalised, within available resources, to maximise progress. This is regularly reviewed, and in the case of high needs students discussed with parents at Annual Reviews. Where a student makes good progress, and bridges the gap, support may well be reduced. Occasionally, the college, parents and student may consider that a place on the SEND register is not necessary any more.

### **Complaints**

In the first instance, parents should talk to the SENDCo or the Headteacher. Further details of how to make a complaint are outlined in SEND Policy and the Complaints Policy.

### **The Local Authority Offer**

Here are two useful links to find out about SEND within Devon and the support available to you:

- Devon County Council SEND Support Information: the link will tell you what you can expect to be available for children with SEND in Devon across education, health and social care services. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/send-local-offer/>
- Devon Information Advice and Support (DIAS): they provide free, confidential and impartial support and training for parents and carers (0-19) who have SEND. <https://devonias.org.uk/>

