

## **SEND Information Report January 2026**

### **What special education provision is available at our setting?**

A wide range of provisions are available for any student who has Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Where there is evidence that the student has learning, physical or emotional difficulties we will support the student under the SEN Support category as described by the SEND Code of Practice 2015. Students with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) will be supported to meet the specific objectives detailed within their individual plan.

### **What criteria must be satisfied before children, and young people can access this provision/service?**

At Paignton Academy all students on role will have access to all universal on site provisions. The Academy SEND Policy adheres to the Equalities Act 2010, the Children and Families Act 2014, and the guidance contained in the SEND Code of Practice 2015. We welcome all students regardless of any special educational needs or disabilities.

Prior to admission, the academy will seek to discuss with parents/guardians or primary schools the individual needs of their child, and agreements made to ensure the student has access to the appropriate specific provisions available in the academy. During the transfer from year 6 to year 7, information is gathered from the feeder primary schools and following admission, and reviews are arranged with the parents of new year 7 students in the autumn term.

### **How do we identify the particular special educational needs of a child or young person?**

During the summer term of year 6, information will be gathered from feeder primary schools. We will also seek the views of parents/guardians to identify particular special educational needs and disabilities.

During the autumn term, learning assessments will be carried out for all new students, typically taking the form of reading, spelling and maths assessments; also, for identified students, specialist assessment of specific difficulties. These assessments will be used to inform review meetings with parents and students during the autumn term.

All students are continually assessed and observed for their progress by staff within the Academy using the four-part assess, plan, do, review cycle prescribed in the SEND Code of Practice 2015. Where a concern is identified by staff, parents or carers, we will seek to discuss how best to support the student concerned.

## How do we consult with parents and/or children and young people about their needs?

For any specific SEND concerns, the contact email addresses below should be used depending upon the pupil's site and House:

-  • [brcbroadssend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk](mailto:brcbroadssend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk)
-  • [brcelberrysend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk](mailto:brcelberrysend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk)
-  • [brcgoodringtontsend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk](mailto:brcgoodringtontsend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk)
-  • [brcprestonsend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk](mailto:brcprestonsend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk)
  
-  • [wrcbroadssend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk](mailto:wrcbroadssend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk)
-  • [wrcelberrysend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk](mailto:wrcelberrysend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk)
-  • [wrcgoodringtontsend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk](mailto:wrcgoodringtontsend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk)
-  • [wrcprestonsend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk](mailto:wrcprestonsend@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk)

These concerns are then triaged by the relevant SEND House Liaison, and needs assessed from there. During the course of the year, SEND Review Meetings are held, with parents invited to discuss SEND provision and progress and to plan for future support. Prior to admission, the academy welcomes families to visit both during and after the school day. The academy holds a transition evening for parents and students as well as enhanced transition days by invitation only, and general transition days for all new pupils. There is also a summer school offer, and induction day in September.

## What is our approach to teaching children and young people with special educational needs?

The academy has developed policies to ensure equal opportunities and inclusion for all students. The academy seeks to treat all students equally, including those identified with special educational needs and disabilities, ensuring appropriate resources are available to meet these needs. Students with SEND have full access to the academy curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to use the SEND Code of Practice graduated approach to support any learning difficulties identified. This ensures once a need is identified, actions are taken to overcome that need.

## **How can we adapt our curriculum for children and young people with special educational needs?**

The curriculum is differentiated and taught adaptively as required to meet the needs of individual students. Teaching styles and flexible groups will reflect this approach. Schemes of work for students, within classes and year groups, will reflect whole academy approaches to teaching and learning, but will consider SEND needs. Curriculum tasks and activities will be matched to students' differing paces and styles of learning, interests, capabilities and previous experiences. These may be broken down into a series of small, achievable steps, for students who have marked learning difficulties. Teaching approaches for students with specific learning difficulties will capitalise on oral strengths, specialist equipment and support.

All mainstream students have access to a full curriculum including the core subjects of Maths, English and Science. At Key Stage 3 subjects include History, Geography, Art, Music, Drama, Design Technology, PE and ICT. Choices of "option" subjects are made for Key Stage 4. These allow students the choice of which subjects to study depending on their chosen career path and can include a very wide range of studies not available in earlier years. Nurture groups are operated currently in Year 7 and Year 8 for students identified via transition of needing further academic support in respect to their cognition and learning.

## **How will we ensure we get the services, provision and equipment that children and young people need?**

The academy provides a wide range of services in-house to help individual needs including access to specialist equipment and staff trained in specialist areas of support. Where we feel we cannot provide a service in-house, the academy works closely with Torbay and other Local Authorities, where required, to ensure that we have access to professionals that can help meet individual needs. We maintain close links with advisors for hearing impaired and visually impaired needs. The academy maintains close links with Torbay Children's Services, CAMHS, Specialist Schools and alternative educational providers to ensure that students have full access to the support they need to complete their education.

The use of outside specialists and guidance helps the academy to meet the needs of all students where it is reasonable to do so. Where there is evidence of significant learning or emotional difficulties, the academy will seek to obtain support to meet the student's needs.

## **How is this provision funded?**

The academy is funded to provide support for all students to ensure good progress is made. If additional support is needed above and beyond that normally expected by a

Secondary School, the academy can apply for additional funding for individual students who have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

### **What additional learning support is available for children and young people with special educational needs and how do they access it?**

The academy offers a wide range of additional learning support at all key stages, some universally, and some as a targeted and bespoke intervention. Listed below are some of the provisions available at each stage. Each provision has its own specific entry and exit criteria which can be viewed on the academy website or can be discussed with the SENCO/Head of Learning Support.

#### **At KS3:**

- Small Group Support for Year 7 and 8 (smaller, highly supported classes)
- Learning Assessments, learning difficulties screening
- Learning Support Assistants
- Literacy interventions
- Numeracy interventions
- Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) interventions
- Student Support services
- Access to an Educational Psychologist
- Learning Support room – supporting pupils with specific needs
- Set class sizes to support lower ability
- SEND House Liaison support

#### **At KS4:**

- Learning Assessments, learning difficulties screening
- Learning Support Assistants
- Literacy interventions
- Numeracy interventions
- Access arrangements
- Student Support services
- Access to an Educational Psychologist
- Learning Support room – supporting pupils with specific needs
- Set class sizes to support lower ability
- Additional studies groups delivered by a HLTA
- SEND House Liaison support

### **How do we support and improve the emotional and social development of children and young people with special educational needs?**

- Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) – individual and small group
- Pastoral Support Managers
- Mentors / Learning Support Assistants

- Reward system / behaviour management
- Access to onsite Educational Psychology Service
- CAMHS
- Student Support Centre

### **How do we support children and young people with special educational needs moving between phases of education and preparing for adulthood?**

Multi agencies, comprehensive transition programmes, are in place between all key stages, incorporating the transfer of specific student information. Records of SEND students involved are transferred within a transition information sharing programme linking SENCO/Head of Learning Support, Head of House, Pastoral Manager, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Looked After Children Coordinator. Transition to independent living and preparing for adulthood is discussed at review meetings from Year 9 onwards. Parents are involved at all stages of transition including individual review meetings, parent information evenings and pre-visits for primary age students.

### **What other support is available for children and young people with special educational needs and how can they access it?**

The academy actively encourages parents/guardians and students to engage with other support services by promoting events and passing on information and also recommending the use of the Torbay Council services. Our pastoral teams aim to work with families and offer advice, guidance and access to other agencies. We work closely with SENDIASS in Torbay to help students and parents obtain independent advice over SEND matters [Sendiass Torbay | Torbay](#)

### **What extracurricular activities are available for children and young people with special educational needs?**

The academy provides an extensive range of extra-curricular activities which are accessible by all students including those with SEND. These are available both during the school day and immediately after school and are usually age related; details can be found on the academy website or by contact with the Head of House. There are a wide range of sports available, but also an extensive range of performing arts and other activities.

### **How do we assess and review progress towards agreed outcomes, and how are parents, children and young people involved in this process?**

Students and parents receive termly academic reports in line with academy policy. Staff can discuss progress at Parents' Evenings or by contacting the academy directly. SEND review meetings are held to assess and review any SEND provisions, agree future targets and desired outcomes with a SEN Specialist. Progress within specific

SEND interventions is monitored via the Provision Mapping tool. Data is updated by the intervention lead and additionally reviewed by the SENCO team. Clear entrance and exit criteria are used to establish when a student should join, or leave, any specific SEND intervention.

### **How do we assess the effectiveness of our special needs provision and how are parents, children and young people involved in this assessment?**

The academy constantly monitors progress to ensure students are making the required levels of progress in relation to their peer group and are engaging with their learning, staff and other students. The academy also monitors attendance and behaviour to ensure students participate in everyday school life. Parents can request a SEND review meeting to discuss their child's progress and effectiveness of SEND provisions with a SEND team member. The academy has a Trust representative linked to SEND who assesses the overall effectiveness of learning support provisions, to ensure they are fit for purpose. Staff receive regular training and are kept up to date with changes and developments relating to SEND, the school maintains membership of national organisations which promote good practice within the SEND area.

### **How do we ensure that teaching staff and other staff have the expertise needed to support children and young people with special educational needs?**

SEND in-service training needs of all staff, as well as those of the Learning Support faculty, will be identified by the SENCO/Head of Learning Support and referred to the Senior Leadership team Continuing Professional Development Coordinator. They will then be incorporated into the Staff Development Plan. Changes in SEND legislation and the code of practice will be passed on to all academy staff. The academy makes use of outside agencies and experts to deliver training on specific areas of need as required, meeting individual student needs. Learning Support staff are encouraged to complete national recognised qualifications in SEND and their training is reviewed on a regular basis.

### **How do we keep parents informed where children and young people have special educational provision but do not have an Education Health and Care Plan?**

The academy will actively seek the involvement of parents in the education of SEND students. It is recognised that it is particularly important with SEND students that the support and encouragement of parents is often a crucial factor in achieving success. Parents will be invited to attend SEND Review meetings to discuss their child's progress and effectiveness of SEND provisions with a SEND Specialist.

### **How can parents, children and young people make a complaint about our provision?**

Where parents have concerns about our school's SEND provision, they should first raise their concerns informally with the SEND House Liaison, or SENCO (Simon Dossett) or Deputy SENCO's (Fenella Cooke and Louise Kenny). We will try to resolve the complaint informally in the first instance. If this does not resolve their concerns, parents are welcome to submit their complaint formally.

Formal complaints about SEND provision in our school should be made to the SENCO or Deputy Principal Tamsin Summers in the first instance. They will be handled in line with the Trust's complaints policy.

If the parent or carer is not satisfied with the school's response, they can escalate the complaint. In some circumstances, this right also applies to the pupil themselves. To see a full explanation of suitable avenues for complaint, see pages 246 and 247 of the SEN Code of Practice. Complaints can be raised at a Trust level in line with the policy found here [TSAT complaints procedure](#)

Parents can also access SENDIASS Torbay, who provide information, advice and support for young people & parents/carers of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities aged 0-25. They can be contacted via their website [Sendiass Torbay | Torbay](#)

### **How can parents, children and young people get more information about the setting?**

SEND provisions available at Paignton Academy can be found on the academy website, in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) section. Parents can also access academy policies and other key information via the website or by contacting the academy directly.

### **How does the Academy involve other bodies, including health and social care bodies, local authority support services and voluntary sector organisations, in meeting children and young people's SEN and supporting their families?**

The academy has close links with the many support services in Torbay, including Social Services, Children's Services, health services and disability services. We work closely with SENDIASS and other parental groups to support students with SEND.

### **What arrangements are in place for supporting children who are looked after by the local authority and have SEN?**

The academy has a Looked After Children coordinator and a designated teacher for Looked After Children who oversee the support and provisions aimed specifically at looked after children. The coordinator attends all PEP reviews and liaises with the local

authority, the virtual school and other interested parties in developing the support in place for looked after children in the Academy.

### **Further SEND Information:**

Academy SEND Policy (School website)

Academy SEND Information Report (This document)

Local Offer [Torbay SEND Local Offer - Family Hub \(torbayfamilyhub.org.uk\)](http://torbayfamilyhub.org.uk)

SENDIASS Torbay: [Sendiass Torbay | Torbay](http://sendiass.org.uk)

Torbay Council: <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/send/>

### **SEND – Useful Links:**

- SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>
- Equality Act 2010: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>
- Special educational needs and disability - SEND Torbay Council: <http://www.torbay.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/send/>

### **Useful/national information:**

- Parent/Guardian – British Dyslexia Association: <http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/parent>

This looks at indicators of specific learning difficulties, as well as supporting your child, both at home and within the education system, to ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes.

- Eyes and Dyslexia/British Dyslexia Association: <http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/dyslexic/eyes-and-dyslexia>

Information regarding: Visual Stress, finding a specialist practitioner, Resources, Aids for visual stress, further reading.

- About Dyspraxia/Dyspraxia Foundation: [Dyspraxia Foundation](http://dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk)

Dyspraxia is a form of developmental coordination disorder (DCD) and is a common disorder affecting fine and/or gross motor coordination in children and adults.

- Dysgraphia Help – About Dysgraphia: <https://dyslexiaida.org/understanding-dysgraphia/>

The site explains what dysgraphia is, the subtypes of dysgraphia, the causes of dysgraphia, how to identify dysgraphia and how dysgraphia can be overcome.

- Dyscalculia/British Dyslexia Association: [Dyscalculia - British Dyslexia Association](#)

Dyscalculia is usually perceived as a specific learning difficulty for mathematics or, more appropriately, arithmetic.

- Hearing Impairment/Disability charity Scope UK:

<https://www.scope.org.uk/>

- Visual impairment/Disability:

<https://www.scope.org.uk/>

- What is Autism? The National Autistic Society: <http://www.autism.org.uk/about/what-is.aspx>

Autism is a lifelong, developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people and the world around them.

- National Association of Special Needs: <http://www.nasen.org.uk/>

NASEN supports practitioners by providing relevant information, training and resources to enable staff to meet all students' needs. Social, Emotional and Mental Health ('SEMH'):

- Talking to your teenager – Live Well – NHS Choices: <https://www.nhs.uk/livewell/mentalhealth/Pages/Talkingtoteens.aspx>

Advice and tips for parents on talking to teenagers and getting them to open up about what's bothering them.

- Children and young people/Mind – the mental health charity: <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

Information about where children and young people can get support with a mental health problem.