

Policy A2: Education and Welfare Provision for pupils

A policy to provide particulars of the educational and welfare provision for pupils with statements/Education Health Care plans and pupils for whom English is an additional language.

NMS Standard 16: Equal Opportunities

16.1 Boarders are not discriminated against, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 or because of their cultural background, linguistic background, special educational need, or academic or sporting ability. These factors are taken into account in the care of boarders, so that care is sensitive to different needs.

At Queen Margaret's School, we are committed to providing an inclusive, and accessible, curriculum for all of our pupils, enabling them to make the most of the opportunities a Queen Margaret's education can offer. Treating girls as individuals is important and we welcome pupils with special educational needs and disabilities providing that we are able to provide them with the support that they require.

The SEND Code of practice (2015) defines that children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them and if they have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age or have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in schools in the area.

Application Process

Queen Margaret's School is committed to early identification of special educational needs and adopts a graduated response to meeting special educational need.

Parents of girls with identified special educational needs and disabilities are advised to discuss their daughter's requirements with us before they sit the entrance examination to ensure that appropriate provision is made for the entrance examination and that we would subsequently be able to provide the appropriate support to their daughter should they be offered and accept a place at Queen Margaret's. Parents are asked to forward a copy of reports such as those carried out by an Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist or other relevant medical professional.

Prior to the entrance examination, the Learning Support Coordinator will liaise with the Admissions Officer and prospective parents and pupils regarding the needs of girls applying to Queen Margaret's with special educational needs or disabilities.

All girls sitting the Queen Margaret's entry examination will complete the Ann Arbor Dyslexia screening test as part of the application process. Parents are informed that their daughters will take this screening test and the results will help inform appropriate provision should a girl take up a place at Queen Margaret's.

On Entry

All new girls to Queen Margaret's undertake standardised baseline assessments in reading accuracy, spelling, comprehension reading speed, comprehension accuracy, typing speed and handwriting speed. These assessment findings are used alongside the Ann Arbor Dyslexia screening to identify girls, who do not have an already identified special educational need or disability, who may benefit from support. Parents of girls identified at this stage are informed of the findings and support is offered to their daughter.

Every girl with a special educational need or disability requires special and individual consideration and provision. The Learning Support department will discuss with parents the nature of support we can provide and the adjustments we can reasonably make.

Teaching, monitoring and review

Pupils identified with learning difficulties are offered individual lessons with a specialist teacher. These lessons are free of charge and take place outside of a pupil's other commitments. Further assessment can be carried out within the department alongside liaison with teaching staff to identify those areas requiring support. The learning support department works closely with the pupil, her teachers and parents to help her overcome the barriers her difficulties present.

The learning Support department will set targets with the pupil and these are regularly reviewed. An Individual learning plan is prepared with each pupil that details the difficulties they face, how these may impact upon their learning in the classroom and identifies strategies to help both teaching staff and the pupil in overcoming these difficulties. A pupil's Individual learning Plan is available for all staff to inform their planning and teaching.

Access Arrangements are detailed on the Individual Learning Plan to allow staff to make reasonable adjustments to internal tests and classwork. This enables pupils to establish their normal way of working and complement their history of need and support when making an application for Access Arrangements for public examinations.

All girls in the 3rd form (year 9) repeat the baseline assessments using a parallel form to ensure that appropriate provision is made available to girls before commencing their GCSE courses.

Access Arrangements for Public Examinations

For a pupil to be awarded Access Arrangements in public examinations it is necessary to demonstrate that she has difficulties which have a "substantial adverse effect" or which result in a "substantial impairment". (This reflects the language of the Equality Act.2010).

An individual with a diagnosis of dyslexia or any other disability is not *automatically* entitled to extra time or any other special arrangement.

In order for a pupil to be awarded any sort of Access Arrangement in public examinations it must be possible for the school to demonstrate a 'history of need', evidence of the pupil's normal way of working and in most cases this must be supported by assessment data, the results of which must satisfy the JCQ regulations.

In accordance with the current JCQ regulations parents of girls in year 9 receiving learning Support are offered the opportunity for their daughter to be formally assessed for Access Arrangements by the in school specialist assessor. If, alongside evidence of need and normal way of working, the results of this assessment suggest a girl is eligible for Access Arrangements, then an application will be made. The in-school specialist assessor works closely with the school examinations officer in processing applications for Access Arrangements.

In accordance with the current JCQ regulations, on transition to the Lower 6th form a pupil's Access Arrangements are reviewed. Evidence is gathered as to her requirements and normal way of working at this stage of her education and if appropriate, a new application for Access Arrangements is made. A Lower Sixth Transition Plan is placed on file as documentation to support the updated Access Arrangements.

Other Adjustments

Depending upon pupil need it may be possible for other adjustments to be made. If it is appropriate to a pupil's need, then it can be possible to arrange for students to use laptop computers in classes. The student will bring their own laptop to school and use in classes that are deemed appropriate. Evidence is collected of students' work for the purposes of supporting a request to have laptop use in exams. Queen Margaret's School has laptops for exam use which comply with exam board regulations.

English as a second language

In order to manage the academic and social demands of Queen Margaret's School, pupils must be competent English speakers. The Head of EAL assesses the English language skills of all non-native English speakers when they commence Queen Margaret's and, where appropriate, tuition is put in place.

The in-school specialist assessor will assess the eligibility of students for whom English is a second language for examination Access Arrangements. English as a second language does not automatically qualify a student for examination access arrangements and each student is assessed against the criteria set out in the current JCQ regulations.

Communication

Awareness of the learning needs of pupils is of paramount importance in the classroom and all teaching staff are kept up to date on the learning needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. The learning support department works closely with a pupil's academic teachers to fully support pupils. The learning Support department also works closely with the Health and Well Being Centre, House staff and external agencies as appropriate.

Physical Accessibility

We recognise that some children with special education needs may also have physical disabilities. Parents and prospective parents of a child with a physical disability can obtain copies of Queen Margaret's School's Accessibility Plan and Disability Policy. This shows the ways in which we plan to make our buildings progressively more accessible to disabled pupils, parents and visitors.

Appendix A: The Legal Framework

Legislation

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2015) provides statutory guidance relating to the policy, practice and provision for students aged 0 – 25 years with special educational needs and disabilities. It pays due regard to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations. The regulations associated with the Children and Families Act 2014 are:

- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- The Special Educational Needs (Personal Budgets) Regulations 2014
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Detained Persons) Regulations 2015
- The Children and Families Act 2014 (Transitional and Saving Provisions)(No 2) Order 2014

The definition of special educational needs set out in The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2015) is that 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.' Further, '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. For children aged two or more, 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, maintained nursery schools, mainstream post-16 institutions or by relevant early years providers.

Particularly relevant to the pupil support department at Queen Margaret's is The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2015) chapter 6, Schools, and the key requirements to ensure:

Every school is required to identify and address the SEN of the pupils that they support. All schools have duties under the Equality Act 2010 towards individual disabled children and young people. They **must** make reasonable adjustments to prevent them being put at a substantial disadvantage.

Where a pupil is identified as having SEN, schools should take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This SEN support should take the form of a four-part cycle (Assess, Plan, Do, review) and is known as the graduated approach.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2015) also sets out the role of SENCO and suggests that the key responsibilities of the SENCO may include:

- overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEN policy
- co-ordinating provision for children with SEN
- advising on the graduated approach to providing SEN support
- liaising with parents of pupils with SEN
- liaising with early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals, and independent or voluntary bodies
- working with the Head and school governors to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- ensuring that the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEN up to date

Head of Learning Support

Head of English as an Additional Language (EAL)

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