Sawston Village College

Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

Ethos

At Sawston Village College, we believe that all pupils can achieve and make excellent progress, regardless of barriers to learning or special educational needs. Lessons are inclusive and pupils are taught in mainstream classes where possible and withdrawn only for specialist intervention when necessary. We maintain high expectations of all staff and pupils and ensure that those pupils who need additional support are appropriately provided for. Support is reviewed regularly and adjusted to ensure maximum impact. Consistent communication ensures successful working partnerships between staff, pupils and parents. Furthermore, we take particular care to ensure that SEND pupils' safety and wellbeing are catered for, acknowledging the fact that, statistically, pupils with specific learning needs or physical disabilities are more vulnerable in terms of safeguarding (Reference KCSIE 2026).

Special Educational Needs – a definition

At Sawston Village College, we consider pupils with special educational needs to be a pupil who:

• has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age.

• has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of the facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.

(Code of Practice 2015)

We consider that pupils with special educational needs may have a number of different barriers to learning which will sit within the following broad areas of need:

• communication and interaction

• cognition and learning

• social, emotional and mental health

• sensory and / or physical needs

(Code of Practice 2015)

English as an Additional Language is not considered to be a special educational need unless there are specific barriers to learning which are not related to the acquisition of the English language. However, specialist provision for English as an Additional Language is provided through the SEND

Support Team.

Inappropriate and anti-social behaviour may not always be characteristic of a special educational need. However, some behaviour characteristics may be linked to specific barriers for learning and should be treated as such.

How will we know if your child needs extra help?

When your child first starts at Sawston Village College we use information from:

- primary school teachers and end of Key Stage 2 levels.
- baseline testing, Cognitive Ability Tests and other initial tests in Year 7
- parents/carers application form information.
- subject teachers.
- specialist colleagues and external agencies.

How will you know how your child is doing?

The College will publish Interim Reports each year which will show current progress levels and report on attitude to learning, behaviour and homework. This information is reviewed and considerations are made for whether specific interventions are needed.

We welcome the involvement of parents/carers and want to keep you up to date and involved with your child's progress. We do this through:

- Parents evenings
- Email
- Telephone calls
- Appointments made with individual teachers
- Annual reviews and additional termly meetings for pupils with an Education Health Care Plan

The College provides information for parents through:

- Sawston Village College newsletter
- The College website (https://sawstonvc.org/)
- Open evenings
- Letters home
- Information evenings (Year 6 through to Year 11)
- Individual consultation meetings

How will we support your child?

All teachers will be told about your child's individual needs and will endeavour to adapt their lessons to meet these. Teachers have ongoing professional development to support their understanding and skills with supporting pupils with additional needs. Where there are concerns regarding access to the curriculum, the teacher will complete a SEND referral to the SEND Dept.

Within the College there are a variety of staff roles to help us fully support your child. Most of our pupils follow a traditional curriculum. However, a small number of learners have a more personalised curriculum to match their individual needs. We also have an excellent in-house provision called the Student Centre which provides support for open access for all pupils at break and lunchtime. We also have a Sensory Room within the Student Centre, for pupils who need support with their sensory needs.

Different types of support at Sawston Village College:

- In class TA support
- Adapted curriculum
- Differentiated and personalised resources
- Alternative methods of recording
- Counselling with Centre 33
- Educational Psychologist consultation
- Touch typing programmes
- Homework club
- Examinations Access Arrangements
- Zones of Regulation
- Lexonik Literacy Training
- Lexia Power Up
- Paired Reading

The above list is not exhaustive and may not be offered to all pupils with Special Educational Needs. Provision is offered as a result of identification and monitoring. When your child is approaching the start of Key Stage 4, if necessary, we will assess and apply for exam access arrangements according to the Joint Council for Qualifications Exam Regulations.

The Local Offer

We aim to provide parents with information about how we support children's learning in College. Although we have tried to be comprehensive in our information, please do come and talk to us if you wish to discuss any aspect of our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision.

Support can also be found within the Cambridgeshire local offer: Cambridgeshire local offer https://info.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/kb5/cambridgeshire/directory/family.page?camfamilychannel=0

How will your child be included in activities outside the classroom?

All children in the College are encouraged to take part in extra activities at break time, lunchtime and afterschool. Day and residential trips are open to all children and your child's specific needs can be discussed if they wish to join such a trip.

How will we support your child's wellbeing?

At Sawston Village College we take our pastoral responsibilities seriously. We pride ourselves on providing a high level of pupil support and guidance. All of our Heads of Year have non teaching timetables. One way we support our pupils is by assigning them to a Mentor Group who will (in most cases) remain with them as they progress up the College. This provides continuity and builds a strong relationship between tutor and pupils.

There are additional members of staff at Sawston Village College who are able to provide pastoral support. These include members of Reset, Compass House, Pupil Reception and buddies during year 7. We also have excellent relationships with a number of outside agencies including:

• Children's Services, the Police and the Youth Service

• Early Help Support Workers

• Centre 33

If your child finds lunch or break times difficult, we have an excellent provision called the Student Centre.

The Teaching Assistant Team:

We employ Teaching Assistants (TAs) to support pupils in class with 1:1 and group work, and also to offer interventions at Mentor time and during lunchtime. The TA Team comprises a range of experienced TAs who specialise in different subject areas and additional needs.

How accessible is our College?

Pupils with mobility issues have full access to all parts of the College with the exception of the upper floor classrooms. Should a pupil be required to learn in this area, the class would be re-roomed to a room which is on the ground floor.

What should you do if you have concerns about my child's progress?

In the first instance, you should contact the subject teacher or your child's Mentor who may refer your concerns to a more senior member of staff if needed. Alternatively contact Anna Garner, the College's SENCO.

If you feel you want to raise a complaint, the College has a formal complaints policy which can be found on the website.

How will we help your child's transition into secondary school and beyond?

We liaise with our 'feeder' primary schools and provide additional transition support if it is needed. The SEND Support Team meets pupils and parents of pupils transferring who may require additional visits. There are transition days and an additional morning for pupils who may be anxious regarding transition.

All pupils receive advice on careers and are encouraged to visit colleges to explore post-16 courses. If additional support is needed, this will be put in place. Bespoke arrangements can be provided with our Post16 Advisor to support their transition beyond Sawston Village College.

Where can you get further information?

• Contact the College on 01223 712 777

• Contact Cambridgeshire Parent Partnership on 01223 699214

• Contact Cambridgeshire County Council on 0345 045 5200

The SEND Co-ordinator is Anna Garner and she can be contacted via the College office on 01223 712 777 or by email: agarner@sawstonvc.org.

Mrs Amanda Page - Deputy SENDCO apage@sawstonvc.org

Mrs Jane Judges - Deputy SENDCO (Inclusion) jjudges@sawstonvc.org

The SENDCO is also responsible for Access Arrangements for exams and assessments.