

George Dixon Academy

SEND Information Report

November 2024

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1. Who are the best people to talk to at George Dixon Academy about my son/daughter's difficulties with regards to learning, special educational needs and/or disabilities?

- Email our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) outlining your concerns. Her name is Mrs Kathy Hull and her email address is k.hull@georgedixonacademy.com. Alternatively, if you ring the main school reception and leave your telephone number Mrs Hull will contact you.

2. Where would I find a copy of the George Dixon Academy Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Policy?

- The SEND policy can be found on the school website. Click on 'Our Academy', followed by 'policies'.

3. How many students at George Dixon Academy are on the Special Needs and/or Disabilities Register?

- In the Year 2024/2025, 14% of student have been placed on the SEND register. This equates to 142 students between Years 7 – 13.
- There are currently 3 students in the school with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- Nationally, the percentage of students with special educational needs is 13% (January 2023), whilst the percentage of students with an EHCP is 4.3%.

4. How will George Dixon Academy let me know if there are any concerns about my son/daughter's learning, special educational needs and/or disabilities?

- Your son/daughter's teacher may call you or write to you to outline any initial concerns.
- Your son/daughter's form tutor/Head of Year may also talk to you about any issues by calling or writing to you.
- Our SENCO may contact you and arrange a meeting to discuss your son/daughter's specific difficulties with learning and any possible support strategies the school might be considering.

5. How will George Dixon Academy consider my views and those of my son/daughter with regards to his/her difficulties with learning, special educational needs and/or disabilities?

- At George Dixon Academy, we believe it is very important for parents and carers to be involved in all areas of their son/daughter's learning and we actively encourage such discussions. We believe, where appropriate, that it is essential to understand your child's views on any difficulties they may experience with their learning.
- You will be able to share your views, discuss your son/daughter's progress at meetings with their form tutor, and subject teachers throughout the year.
- If your son/daughter has an identified need, you will be invited to an additional meeting, during the academic year, with a member of the SEND Team to discuss support strategies, review current progress and expected outcomes.
- If your son/daughter has an identified high need and/or has an EHCP, you will be invited to a termly meeting to discuss current progress and any support strategies being used as well as their expected outcomes. If your son/daughter has an *Education, Health and Care Plan* (EHCP), you and your son/daughter will be able to share your views at the Annual Review.

6. How does George Dixon Academy ensure teaching staff are appropriately trained to support my son/daughter's special educational needs and/or disabilities?

- At George Dixon Academy, we believe that your son/daughter's learning needs will first be met through high quality teaching delivered by his/her subject teachers.
- George Dixon Academy regularly reviews the school's 'Continuing Professional Development' for all teaching and support staff. The Academy will make use of training programmes from different agencies and/or organisations when necessary to meet a student's needs.
- A record of all staff training is kept ensuring that all students' needs can be met.
- Our Assistant Head Teacher – Director of Inclusion works closely with all Departments throughout the Academy, to develop bespoke SEND provision within each subject area.

7. How will the curriculum and the school environment be matched to my son/daughter's needs?

- At George Dixon Academy, we believe that your son/daughter's learning needs will be first met through the high-quality teaching delivered by his/her subject teachers and their form tutors.
- We carefully plan our curriculum to match the age, ability and needs of all our students.
- Our Academy teachers will differentiate lesson planning and teaching to match your son/daughter's special educational needs and/or disability.
- It may be appropriate to adopt different strategies or resources to meet you son/daughter's needs.
- Additional specialist advice is sought when appropriate and, when necessary; accessibility aids and technology may be used to support your son/daughter.

8. What types of support may be suitable and available for my son/daughter?

- The support your son/daughter will receive will depend on his/her needs. However, our education provisions will match the needs of the four broad areas of need as defined in the SEND Code of Practice 2014:
 - Communication and Interaction
 - Cognition and Learning
 - Social, emotional and mental health
 - Sensory and/or physical needs
- The first level of support consists of the high quality teaching your son/daughter will receive from his/her subject teachers and their form tutor; this may include some minor adaptations to match learning needs.
- It may be appropriate to consider making additional short term special educational provision to remove or reduce any obstacles to your son/daughter's learning. This takes the form of a graduated approach: Assessing, Planning, Doing and Reviewing. Specific targeted interventions may run outside of the classroom.
- It may be necessary to seek specialist advice and support from a professional outside the school to plan for the best possible learning outcomes for your son/daughter. This may include educational psychology, occupational therapy, and sensory advisory teachers. However, for a very small number of students, access to these specialists may be through an EHC Plan.

9. How will George Dixon Academy support my son/daughter to reach his/her potential?

- George Dixon Academy ensures that all its staff pay special attention with regards to your son/daughter's progress and will consistently set him/her challenging academic targets whilst at the same time providing the high-quality teaching required to support their aspirations.
- External agencies and specialists may also review your son/daughter's progress with consent from parents/carers.

10. What is an Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP); who can request one for my son/daughter?

➤ The purpose of an EHC Plan is to make special education provision to meet the special educational needs of a student or young person, to secure improved outcomes for him/her across education, health and social care and, as he/she gets older, preparing for adulthood. An EHC Plan will:

- contain the views and aspirations of you and your son/daughter
- contain a full description of his/her special educational needs and health and social care needs
- establish outcomes for you son/daughter's progress
- specify the provision required and how education, health and social care will work together to meet your son/daughter's needs and support their achievements of the agreed outcomes
- You, or the school, usually the SENCO, can request that the local authority conduct an assessment of his/her needs. This may lead to an EHC Plan. **It should be noted**, that Birmingham requires a school to have a 'Support Provision Plan' in place for 2 terms, prior to an EHCP assessment.
- From September 2014, the new Children and Families Act 2014, became law. This replaced the former Statement of Educational Needs and Section 139a Learning Difficulty Assessment with the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) running from birth to age 25 years for children with special educational needs.
- The main difference is that the EHCP is more person centred with more engagement and involvement from parents, carers, children and young people in the process.

11. How will George Dixon Academy help me to support my son/daughter's learning?

- There may be suggested strategies or activities for you to do at home to support your son/daughter's learning.
- Our SENCO may also support you with strategies, resources and ideas for supporting your son/daughter's learning from home.
- You may have an opportunity to meet with other professionals involved in supporting your son/daughter.

12. How is support allocated to students?

- Our SENCO and Director of Inclusion evaluates the level of need of each student on the SEND register at George Dixon Academy. Based on this evaluation, SEND Team support and intervention may be implemented and/or additional training or resources provided to your son/daughter's teachers.
- This process is reviewed to ensure the best possible route is provided to those students who require additional support to learn.

13. How will George Dixon Academy know that the support has made a difference to my son/daughter's learning and how can I and my son/daughter be included in this review process?

- Your son/daughter's progress will be assessed both in terms of his/her regular learning within the class and about specific intervention programmes.

14. What support will there be for my son/daughter's happiness and well-being at school?

- At George Dixon Academy we believe the key to learning is for students to be happy, healthy and successful. All members of staff take this aspect of school life very seriously.
- You can be confident, that, your son/daughter's form tutor, teacher, SEND Support Team, Head of Year and SENCO, are available to provide support to match his/her needs.
- You should also feel free to contact the school if you have any concerns.

15. How is my son/daughter included in all the same activities as his/her peers at the Academy?

- George Dixon Academy is an inclusive school and committed to providing equal opportunities for all students.
- School clubs, educational visits and residential trips are available to all students.
- When necessary, the Academy will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that students with SEND are included in all activities.

16. How will I be able to find out what access facilities there are for my son/daughter?

- George Dixon Academy Accessibility Plan is available via the school website.

17. How should I apply for a place at George Dixon Academy if my son/daughter has a special educational need and/or disability?

- Parents/carers of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan can liaise with the local authority at the annual review at either the end of Year 5 or beginning of Year 6 to discuss the best school to meet your son/daughter's needs. The Local Authority will then send out a consultation to the Academy. If your child does not have an EHCP you can identify George Dixon Academy as one of your preferred choices. However, we would recommend that you discuss your son/daughter's needs with our SENCO before submitting.

18. How will George Dixon Academy support my son/daughter at the different transition stages?

- We liaise very closely with the transferring school. We discuss with the relevant teachers any individual needs and how best to support your son/daughter in school.
- Whilst at George Dixon Academy we take care to ensure that during transition points, all staff are aware of individual student's needs, learning progress and best support strategies.
- George Dixon Academy makes bespoke arrangements depending on your son/daughter's level of need when transitioning. Please contact us for further details.

- If your son/daughter has an EHC Plan, our SENCO will participate in the annual review at the Primary School prior to moving between key phases or attend an initial meeting at the Primary School if the annual review has taken place.

19. Who can I contact if I have a complaint about the SEND provision in place for my son/daughter?

- Initially speak with Mrs K. Hull our SENCO and Assistant Head – Director of Inclusion, who should be able to address your concerns.
- If you however feel your concerns area still not being sufficiently addressed, any further concerns can be discussed with our Headteacher Mr T. Mann.

20. If I have any other queries about my son/daughter at George Dixon Academy, who can I ask?

- At George Dixon Academy we are very happy to speak to you about any aspect of your son/daughter's education. If it is a specific query about you son/daughter's special education needs, please contact our SENCO Mrs K. Hull in the first instance.