



Policy:	Thomas Deacon Education Trust - SEND Policy
Owner:	Charlotte Ims
Approving Board:	TDET Executive Group
Date of review:	01 September 2025
Date of approval:	TBA
Date of next review:	01 September 2026
Publish Status:	Statutory
Version:	1

Contents

Paragraph	Page
1. Introduction and Purpose	3
2. Scope	4
3. Legislation and Regulation	4
4. Other policies which link to this policy	4
5. Definitions within this Policy	4
6. Learners with SEND	5
7. Policy statement	7
8. Support for TDET Academies	7
9. Education and Health	8
10. What TDET Academies will do	9
11. Training	11
12. Learners with English as an Additional Language (EAL)	11
13. Responsibilities	12
14. Complaints	13
15. Admissions	13
16. Monitoring and Compliance	14

1. Introduction and Purpose

- 1.1 This policy sets out our vision and principles for children and young people with SEND and our expectations for our academies across Thomas Deacon Education Trust (TDET).
- 1.2 The offer in our curriculum within each of our academies can be found in the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Information Reports, which are published on our academy websites.
- 1.3 These expectations will ensure we are compliant with both the requirements and the ethos of the previous and future SEND reforms and serve to improve outcomes for all learners. This policy refers to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 years (July 2014).
- 1.4 Inclusion is a term used to describe the process of ensuring equity of learning opportunities for all children and young people. It is a process of identifying, understanding, and breaking down barriers to participation and belonging. Inclusion is about the quality of their experience; how children and young people are helped to learn, achieve, and participate fully in the life of the school. Inclusion focuses particularly on those groups of children who have historically been marginalised or who have underachieved. Inclusion does not mean that all learners necessarily learn in the same way or together, but that practices are adapted to take account of all learners' needs – this is equity in learning.
- 1.5 Educational inclusion is about equal opportunities for all learners, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, impairment, attainment, and background. All children, including those identified as having special educational needs and / or disabilities, have the same common entitlement to a broad and balanced academic and social curriculum, which is accessible to them, delivered by well qualified staff and enables them to be fully included in all aspects of school life.
- 1.6 All schools in England must have regard to the Code of Practice (2014) as it provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations. Schools must fulfil their statutory duties towards children and young people with SEN (Special Educational Needs) or disabilities as set out in guidance and law.
- 1.7 Under the Equality Act (2010) all schools have duties towards individual disabled children and young people. They must make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services required by disabled children and young people to prevent them being put at a substantial disadvantage.

- 1.8 The Teachers' Standards (2012) makes clear the expectation for all teachers to "adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all learners." Teachers must "have a clear understanding of the needs of all learners, including those with special educational needs; those of high ability; those with English as an additional language; those with disabilities; and be able to use and evaluate distinctive teaching approaches to engage and support them." (Teachers Standard 5)

2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to all TDET staff, as well as professional services staff when considering reasonable adjustments, funding, and provision for learners with SEND.

3. Legislation and Regulation

- 3.1 This policy is compliant with the following legislation and regulation:
- (a) The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2015.
 - (b) The Equality Act 2010.
 - (c) The Children and Families Act 2014, Part 33.
 - (d) The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014.

4. This policy links to the policies/reports below

- (a) Accessibility Policy
- (b) Supporting Children with Medical Needs Policy
- (c) SEN Information Report
- (d) Behaviour Policy
- (e) TDET Pedagogy Model

5. Definitions within this Policy

- 5.1 Definition of SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

There is a clear distinction between 'underachievement,' often caused by a poor early experience of learning, and 'special educational needs. Some learners may be

underachieving but will not necessarily have a special educational need; it is our responsibility to identify this quickly and ensure that appropriate support is put in place to help these learners 'catch up.'

A child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability, which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her, for a sustained period, usually more than 12 weeks.

A child of school age or a young person has a learning difficulty if they:

- (a) Have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or;
- (b) Have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

5.2 Definition of Disability

Many children and young people with SEND may also have a disability. A disability is described in law (the Equality Act 2010) as 'a physical or mental impairment, which has a long-term (a year or more) and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.' This includes, for example, sensory impairments such as those that affect sight and hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, or epilepsy.

The Equality Act requires early years' providers, schools, colleges, other educational settings, and local authorities to:

- (a) Not directly or indirectly discriminate against, harass, or victimise disabled children and young people.
- (b) Make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of extra aid services (for example, tactile signage or induction loops), so that disabled children and young people are not disadvantaged. This duty is known as 'anticipatory.'

6. Learners with SEND

- 6.1 The Code of Practice (2014, updated May 2015) makes clear the four broad areas of Special Education Need; these are:

- (a) Communication and Interaction (C&I)
- (b) Cognition and Learning (C&L)
- (c) Social, emotional, and mental health difficulties (SEMH)
- (d) Sensory and/or physical needs (S/PD)

- 6.2 In line with the Code of Practice, all academies follow a graduated approach to a learners' special educational needs. This support should take the form of "a four-part cycle through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the learner's needs and of what supports the learner in making good progress and securing good outcomes." This is referred to as the Assess, Plan, Do, Review (APDR) process.
- 6.3 The responsibility and leadership of SEND is well evidenced when there is a clear strategic approach to SEND provision across the academies with key personnel identified and recognised, and where continuous development (CD) are successful in improving outcomes for learners with SEND.
- 6.4 Enjoyment and innovation for learners with SEND is well evidenced through high quality teaching and intervention, which is targeted and appropriate and which enthuses and engages, resulting in consistently high expectations and aspirations and a belief that learning is without limits.
- 6.5 Interventions designed to support learners with additional needs must be based in research informed evidence, and carefully balanced with the provisions listed in EHCPs. Staff delivering interventions must receive robust training, planning and assessment time to ensure that effectiveness and impact is measured and evidenced.
- 6.6 The aspiration and development of learners with SEND should be scrutinised through robust tracking and monitoring processes, which ensure levels of achievement and attainment are substantial and sustained, based on individual starting points, and where all learners are well-prepared for the next stages of their educational journey.
- 6.7 There should be a continual focus on preparing students with SEND for adulthood within the curriculum offer. The Preparing for Adulthood agenda requires a focus on supporting learners to develop independence in:
- (a) Independent living.
 - (b) Accessing employment and training.

(c) Accessing the community.

(d) Managing their health.

6.8 Collaboration and inclusion are most successful when the provision for learners with SEND is carefully considered and innovative, with opportunities available for personalisation and flexibility. This may include providing a curriculum offer which is different from and / or additional to that already offered and which secures effective partnership working for all involved – including parents / carers.

6.9 Honesty and integrity are essential to the early identification of learners' needs; where the SEND register is an accurate and regularly updated 'live document' and where specialist support is available 'at the right time' there is greater impact from the intervention.

7. Policy statement

7.1 TDET is committed to working across academies and utilising Trust expertise, local and specialist agencies, parent support and guidance to ensure a child-centred approach.

7.2 TDET is committed to legal compliance and a genuine desire to support all children and young people.

7.3 The Trust will ensure that:

(a) All academies have regard for the voice of the child or young person with SEND as well as those of the parent or carer, and consider their feelings, wishes and views.

(b) Academies work closely with local authorities including the Local Authority in which the academy is located, and the home local authority of children with SEND to assist them in fulfilling the obligations under Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and its associated guidance.

(c) All academies have procedures and professionals in place to enable them to fulfil their statutory duties and to drive the ethos and vision that runs through the SEND Code of Practice.

8. Support for TDET Academies

8.1 The TDET SEND Lead will ensure that the strategic direction of SEND is embedded and considered across all the academies by working with school leaders to develop and sustain effective systems and structures to maximise outcomes for learners with

SEND. This will include identifying training for staff and direct support for SENDCos, the wider staff and school leaders.

8.2 From time-to-time, TDET academies may require support and guidance from the TDET SEND Lead, for example in:

- (a) Training for senior leaders.
- (b) Support in identification and intervention of need.
- (c) Legal advice, for example attendance at tribunals or mediation to support school staff.
- (d) Whole staff training and conferences.
- (e) SEND audits and reviews of provision.
- (f) Brokering of support services.
- (g) SEND Community meetings to inform and share best practice.
- (h) Parent / carer consultation groups.
- (i) Reviewing and advising on complex cases.

9. Education and Health

9.1 All academies must work jointly with education and health care professionals and agencies to secure the best possible outcomes for the children and young people in their setting. Academies will work with local and national providers to secure the services needed to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

These services might include:

- (a) speech and language therapy
- (b) physiotherapy
- (c) occupational therapy
- (d) Educational Psychology assessment
- (e) mental health services

- 9.2 All academies will make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and young people and will plan to support those with medical conditions.
- 9.3 As appropriate, academies will ensure that pupils who require access arrangements receive them, to support in examinations and embed reasonable adjustments.

10. What TDET Academies will do

- 10.1 Academies will designate a qualified teacher to be responsible for coordinating SEND provision. The designated SENDCo, will have completed the previously accredited NASENCO qualification or the new NPQSEND qualification within three years of taking up the position.
- 10.2 Academies will prepare a SEND Information Report in accordance with paragraphs 6.79 onwards of the DfE (Department for Education) *SEND Code of Practice* and publish their Information Reports on their website. This will be reviewed and updated every September to coincide with the start of the academic year.
- 10.3 Academies will ensure that all teachers accept that SEND is their responsibility, and that class and subject teachers take full responsibility for the progress of the children and young people with SEND whom they teach. To do this, leaders will ensure they have the working knowledge of the SEND Code of Practice needed to ensure provision meets the legal obligations of the academy to pupils with SEND.
- 10.4 Academies will ensure that learners with SEND acquire the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. They will have the same opportunity to partake in all areas of school life. Reasonable adjustments, where possible, must be made to ensure equal opportunity to participate.
- 10.5 Academies will ensure there is high ambition for learners with SEND and ensure they are not provided with a reduced or inappropriate curriculum. It will be broad and balanced and support progression to the next phase of education.
- 10.6 Academies will employ a variety of assessment and screening tools to assess a child or young person's skills and attainment to identify and build on information received from previous settings in consultation with their parents and carers. This could lead to learners being placed on 'SEND support.'
- 10.7 As part of the screening process, academies will consider any evidence that the young person may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 and make reasonable adjustments for them.

- 10.8 In their settings, academies will ensure that children and young people with SEND engage in all activities alongside those who do not have SEND unless a particular provision or arrangement is agreed with the parents or carers, and the child or young person.
- 10.9 Class and subject teachers, supported by the SENDCo and school line management system, will make regular assessments of the progress for all learners and identify appropriate actions, particularly those making less than expected progress, given their age and prior attainment.
- 10.10 Academies will inform parents and carers when they are making special provision for their child and shall then work in partnership with them to establish support needed and specialist input, to secure best outcomes, taking full account of their views and wishes. For all children and young people on 'SEND Support,' academies will make arrangements for an appropriate member of staff, with input from the SENDCo as appropriate, to meet with the parents or carers at least three times a year to review progress and support.
- 10.11 Academies will ensure that a graduated approach using the 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' cycle (as set out in paragraphs 6.44-6.56 of the SEND Code of Practice, is in place for all young people on 'SEND Support.' Where a young person has an EHCP and need / diagnosis has changed, they will also have provisions made within the graduated approach.
- 10.12 After consultation with the parent or carer and the child or young person, an academy will request the local authority to undertake an Education, Health, Care needs assessment for any child or young person for whom we believe this is necessary.
- 10.13 Academies will do everything they can to meet the needs of young people with SEND including delivering the elements of an EHCP (Education, Health, and Care Plan), and completing Section M best endeavour documentation in the rare event that a provision cannot be made.
- 10.14 Academies will work with relevant local authorities in a timely manner to undertake annual reviews of EHCPs (Education, Health, and Care Plan), so that they are conducted within the statutory timeframes and so that they consider the views of the child or young person and those of the parent or carer.
- 10.15 Academies will support the smooth and well-planned **transitions** for pupils with SEND at all stages, in line with the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice (2015). Transition planning is person-centred and begins early, with input from families and professionals. For pupils with Education, Health and Care

Plans (EHCPs), the local authority must review and update plans to reflect the next phase of education by statutory deadlines.

11. Training

- 11.1 Academies will ensure training is provided to all staff on identifying special educational needs and understanding and using the graduated approach. They will learn about and develop best practice in supporting learners with SEND both inside and outside of the classroom. The collaboration within and across TDET academies will support the sharing of best practice for SEND.
- 11.2 TDET and individual academies will provide training for SEND staff to ensure they are skilled in completing evidence-based interventions both in small groups and within class where applicable. Where possible, this will also include the sharing of best practice from the TDET settings.
- 11.3 The TDET SEND Lead will support SENDCOs and individual academies to establish their SEND CPD program in relation to individual academy priorities and needs of the learners in each setting.
- 11.4 Leaders must ensure that the use of assessment tools are reviewed annually and adjusted if they are not effective. In addition, leaders must ensure pupils are appropriately supported to access any testing.

12. Learners with English as an Additional Language (EAL)

- 12.1 The term EAL learner is often used interchangeably with 'bilingual learner' (DfE 2007); the government definition of a bilingual learner is that it refers to 'all learners who use or have access to more than one language at home or at school – it does not necessarily imply full fluency in both or all languages'. (DfE 2003).
- 12.2 To ensure equity of learning for EAL, it is important that recognition and respect is given to the value and significance of the first language and the associated cultural expectations and norms. "EAL learners, their families / carers and communities are not homogenous groups; it is important to know and understand who they are, in order to effectively support their needs."
- 12.3 English as an Additional Language (EAL) is not considered a Special Education Need. However, adapted work and individual learning opportunities must be provided for children who are learning English as an Additional Language as; this may be

underpinned by the approaches highlighted for the disadvantaged and more able, where appropriate.

- 12.4 Enjoyment and innovation for EAL learners is well evidenced through high quality teaching and intervention, which is targeted and appropriate and which enthuses and engages, and actively promotes a safe environment where risk taking is encouraged to enhance independence.
- 12.5 Collaboration and inclusion are well evidenced when the provision for EAL learners is well developed and innovative, with opportunities available for personalisation and flexibility; providing a curriculum offer which capitalises on opportunities for active and practical learning experiences and which secures effective partnership working for all involved. This actively includes parents / carers so that they feel confident that their home and community language, and the narratives and culture in which their language is embedded, is respected by the school.
- 12.6 Honesty and integrity are well evidenced in the appropriate and accurate identification of SEND needs and specific to EAL, where an ethos of high expectations for all is promoted and a development of identity and belonging in contemporary British society is embedded.

12 Responsibilities

- 13.1 Principals are responsible for ensuring an appropriately qualified member of staff is the designated SENDCo within their academy.
- 13.2 Principals are responsible for enabling the SENDCo to work strategically within their academy to ensure the best possible education for learners with SEND.
- 13.3 Principals must ensure SENDCOs have appropriate administration support to manage their workload.
- 13.4 SENDCOs are responsible for ensuring the education within the academy is compliant with this Trust policy, as well as supporting parents and carers and the learners in meeting their responsibilities.
- 13.5 Teachers are responsible for working in line with the DfE Teachers' Standards 5 and providing appropriate education for all the learners within their class(es) as outlined in Section 6 of the SEND Code of Practice 2015.
- 13.6 Trustees and the Executive Leadership Team have overall responsibility for the implementation and approval of this policy.

13.7 All academies are committed to providing:

- (a) High Quality Teaching (HQT) which meets the needs of all learners, and which is appropriately differentiated.
- (b) Effective systems for tracking and monitoring progress, so that early intervention can address gaps in learning; this includes, but is not exclusive to, monitoring and evaluation through learning walks and work scrutiny, across all learner groups.
- (c) Opportunities to extend and challenge all learners, so that they can achieve their potential.
- (d) Effective lines of communication between home and school, so that through collaboration, a shared understanding of 'what success looks like' is achieved for each learner and their family.

13.8 It is best practice for all academies to also have the following:

- (a) SEND Implementation Plan (Strategic)
- (b) Action Plan (Operational)
- (c) A coordinated provision map, which identifies additional support / strategies by learners, and which can be filtered according to learner characteristics.
- (d) Links to disadvantaged, EAL, SEND and more-able learners in the academy Improvement Plan.

14. Complaints

14.1 Please refer to our SEND Information Report for contact details regarding SEND concerns. In the case of an unresolved concern, the issue should be taken through the general complaints procedure as outlined on our website and the TDET Complaints Policy. [Thomas Deacon Education Trust - Policies and Procedures](#)

15 Admissions

15.1 The school admits pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in line with the Children and Families Act 2014, the SEND Code of Practice (2015), and the Equality Act 2010. We ensure that no child is disadvantaged in the admissions process due to their SEND, and reasonable adjustments are made where needed. Admission decisions are based on the child's needs and the school's capacity to

meet them, with collaboration between families, the local authority, and relevant professionals.

16 Monitoring and Compliance

- 16.1 Principals will monitor compliance with this policy within their academies. Through the agreed assurance activities, the TDET SEND Lead will scrutinize compliance, the impact of this policy in supporting SEND learners and in meeting the requirements of the SEND Code of Practice.