



St Catherine's School & College

*Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs*

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS POLICY
APRIL 2023**

Title: **Special Educational Needs Policy**

Status: **Final**

Revisions: - None

Review Frequency: Recommended annually

Next Review: April 2024

1. Introduction

St Catherine's School is a non-maintained day and residential special school for students with primarily specific/severe speech, language and communication needs, (SLCN). Ordinarily, each student will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which lists the necessary provision and objectives. As such, class groups are kept small (maximum 10), teachers are trained/experienced in teaching students with SLCN and therapists (Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists), are employed to work as part of a multi-professional team. All teachers, therapists, care staff and medical staff accept their corporate responsibility as co-ordinators for students' special educational needs. The curriculum is modified to support students with speech, language and communication needs and programmes are put in place which will give them the necessary tools and skills to access this curriculum. The school helps students to reach their full potential and encourages independent learning. The residential facilities are an essential element in enabling students to develop their social and life-skills. To facilitate the best use of the community, teachers, therapists and residential care staff work together to ensure a consistent approach to developing skills in a real life setting.

2. Speech and Language Therapy

The therapists are split into two teams, one that works with school and one with sixth form. They are responsible for the delivery of speech and language therapy as individual needs require. This will entail individual 1:1 or small group sessions, as necessary, as well as in-class support. The therapist is responsible for the delivery of Social Interaction joint sessions as well as Functional Communication as part of the school's curriculum, in order to support the students' needs for social communication. As necessary, a programme of speech and language therapy will be developed by the speech and language therapist and delivered by the therapist or a speech and language therapy assistant, under direction or by a combination of both. (See Speech and Language Therapy Policy for more details.)

3. Occupational Therapy

Many students have occupational therapy needs detailed on their EHCP, while other students are assessed when they start at St Catherine's. As necessary, a programme of occupational therapy intervention will be developed by the occupational therapist and delivered by the therapist or by an occupational therapy assistant under direction or by a combination of both. The intervention may involve individual sessions, small group work or in-class support. In addition, occupational therapy activities/resources are developed which all staff can use to the benefit of all students. (See Occupational Therapy Policy the relevant policy for more details.)

4. Education

A modified curriculum is in place (which is based on the National Curriculum for main school students). The pace, the content and delivery styles are adapted to ensure access for all. At the Sixth Form College individual programmes are developed according to need, ability and interest. Classes

are small (usually between 4 and 10 students). Targets (known as liaison aims) are written for each student and reviewed on a termly basis. Students are given supported vocational opportunities both in school and at the Isle of Wight College.

Teachers, therapists (SLT and OT), and assistants work together in the classroom to ensure an integrated approach. This is complemented by work by the care staff. Students have the opportunity to work towards exams at an appropriate level. (See Modified School Curriculum, Sixth Form Integrated Programme and Homework Policy for more details.)

5. Residential Care

A team of qualified care staff work with students in the residential setting. Care Action Plans are developed with each student to ensure relevant targets are set and reviewed. A keyworker system ensures individual work and support for each student. Much emphasis is placed upon life skills and independence skills. Day students can also access this life skill and independence support. (See Care Policy for more details.)

6. Medical Care

Students may have a range of medical needs. Qualified nursing staff allow appropriate medical care plans to be developed as necessary. With parental consent, students are registered with the local GP who is the Medical Officer for St Catherine's. Care staff are trained in safe administration of medication. A range of staff from all disciplines are trained in first aid. Staff are given training on supporting particular needs as necessary, (e.g. epilepsy, nut allergies, diabetes). (See First Aid, Health Care and Medication policies for more details.)

7. Other Support

There are a range of other support services which can be called upon as necessary and subject to funding requirements. These include:

- Child and adolescent psychotherapist;
- The Youth Trust (for counselling);
- Adult Mental Health Services;
- Child And Adolescent Mental Health Services;
- Physiotherapy;
- Bereavement counselling; and
- Any other therapy as required.

Additional staff support (as determined by a student's EHCP and funding) may also be provided.

8. Review

The EHCP is reviewed annually. A report is prepared by St Catherine's specialist staff detailing progress to date and areas of continuing need. Contributions to the report are sought from the student and the parents/carers and any other external professional working with the student. A meeting is held, usually at St Catherine's, to which all relevant parties are invited. Aims for the future are agreed and any transition plans are put in place.

Related Policies

Special Educational Needs Information Report
Care Policy
First Aid Policy
Health Care Policy
Medication Policy
Modified School Curriculum
Sixth Form Integrated Programme
Homework Policy
Occupational Therapy Policy
Speech and Language Therapy Policy

Reviewed Apr 2010 / Oct 2012 / July 2015 / July 2017 / July 2019/ September 2019/ Feb 2021/ April 2022/ April 2023