

# Ridgeway Academy SEND Information Report 2020-2021

Welcome to our annual SEND Information Report which is part of the Hertfordshire Local Offer for learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We hope that this report will answer any questions you may have about the work we do at Ridgeway Academy to support the progress and wellbeing of pupils who have Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities.

The SEND Code of Practice: 0-25 years (2014) states, 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.
- Has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.

## ***How does the school know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have Special Educational Needs?***

Ridgeway Academy will assess your child's needs on admission via Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATs) and Baseline subject testing and will consult with you and your child's previous school about their progress and attainment. If your child has undiagnosed SEND during their time at Ridgeway Academy, our SENDCO will consult with the Director of Learning and the student's teachers to create a picture of their need and make a decision about how best to support your child's needs going forwards.

If you think your child may have Special Needs and/or you are concerned about their progress you can contact the SENDCO.

## ***How will school staff support my child?***

The SENDCO will draw up a picture of your child's needs and ensure that teaching staff are aware of the best ways to personalise the learning for your child. Where there is a need for external agency advice, the SENDCO will

consult with you and make appropriate referrals. Your child may be assisted with in-class Teaching Assistant support or structured withdrawal sessions designed to help them make good progress.

***How will I know how my child is progressing?***

The SENDCO will inform you of the progress your child is making through SEND Parents' Meetings, Year Group Parent Evening appointments, Progress Reports and phone calls. Attainment reports are sent home to all students which show individual progress against their personalised targets.

***How will the learning and development provision be matched to my child's needs?***

Students are placed onto Learning Pathways that support their skills, levels and abilities. As far as possible, students access all areas of the curriculum in lessons with their subject teachers. The needs of students with SEND may be met with appropriately differentiated resources, materials or tasks so that they can access learning. As necessary a student profile will make teaching staff aware of the strengths and weaknesses that students have, along with strategies to best support them.

Other provisions and interventions will be offered appropriate to the individual needs of a student. These may include literacy intervention, numeracy intervention, reading support, pre-teaching or over-learning of key words and new subject content, adjusted resources and modified homework tasks.

***What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?***

Effective pastoral support from form tutors helps all students to feel safe, comfortable and looked after at school. Students receive support from the friendly and experienced Student Support and SEND Team in H Block, the SENDCO, the Safeguarding Officer and Mental Health Lead and the Inclusion Co-ordinator responsible for Pupil Premium and Young Carers. In addition to all this, every student in Key Stage 3 and 4 receives a fortnightly Well-being lesson.

We network with a wide range of professionals and use colleagues' expertise with specific interventions, we break down any barriers individuals have to learning and, as a result, watch the students develop into successful young adults. We have a strong bond with local primary schools and external professionals in the community and this enables us to support our students and help parents, carers and families through challenging or emotional times.

***What specialist services and expertise are available at or are accessed by the school?***

The SENDCO liaises with many specialist services and outside agencies to ensure provision for our students is appropriate and meets all needs. The school works closely with external agencies that are relevant to individual needs, including: Health – GPs, school nurses, clinical psychologists and psychiatrists (CAMHS), paediatricians, speech & language therapists, occupational therapists. Children's Services – locality teams, social workers, child protection teams, Hertfordshire Educational Psychology Service, Specialist Teacher Advisors – hearing and visual impairment, physical disabilities, communication and language, SEND Team.

***What training have the staff, supporting children and young people with SEND, had or are having?***

There is a full programme of SEND training for new and existing staff every academic year. The SENDCO regularly consults a wide range of support agencies both locally and nationally. The Teaching Assistants are kept up to date with statutory as well as local and national changes. All SEND staff attend training courses to develop their skills and specialisms and good practice is shared routinely within faculties and within the wider school.

***How will the school help me to support my child's learning?***

There are opportunities for parents to attend workshops and training events and parents are invited to consult and contribute to our provision. Homebased learning is vital and your child will have a planner and access to *Show My Homework* so that you will be able to see exactly what tasks are set and when they need to be completed. Parents are asked to download the *My*

*Child At School App* which provides a real-time view on attendance, timetable, rewards and consequences. Students who need support in school with their home-based learning can attend lunchtime or after school homework clubs. By reading with your child and reviewing their homework together you can help your child progress.

***How will I be involved in discussions about and planning for my child's education?***

Parents will always be informed if their child is receiving SEND support and they are welcome to contact the SENDCO at any time.

Parents are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the SENDCO to discuss their child's provision. Barriers to learning and effective strategies will be discussed and shared with staff to support student progress. A member of the SEND Department will be available for appointments during Parent Consultation Evenings.

Students with Education, Health and Care Plans will have an annual review of this document. Parents/Carers and a member of the Hertfordshire SEND Team will be invited to attend. Parental input into these meetings is encouraged.

***How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?***

We aim to ensure that all our activities and interventions are accessible to all pupils with SEND.

All students are entitled to be included in all parts of the school curriculum and we aim for all students to be included on school trips. Appropriate provision and reasonable adjustments will be made where necessary. Please see the Trips and Visits policy on the school website.

A risk assessment is carried out prior to any off-site activity to ensure everyone's health and safety will not be compromised.

***How accessible is the school environment?***

The school is on a large site with a mixture of one and two storey buildings. Our SEND department liaise with colleagues within the school to ensure all efforts are made to achieve accessibility for all students within the school. Resources and teaching are differentiated according to individual student needs. Reasonable adjustments are made to ensure all students enjoy a safe and enjoyable learning environment.

***Who can I contact for further information?***

If you think your child may have Special Needs and/or you are concerned about their progress you can contact the SENDCO.

***How will the school prepare and support my child to join the school, transfer to a new school or the next stage of education?***

All Year 6 students are visited in their Primary Schools by the Head of Year 7 and /or SENDCO. Targeted students with SEND are invited to attend an additional transition session where students meet the SEND team and take part in taster lessons prior to the Secondary Transfer Day.

Baseline testing take place for all new Year 7's in the Core Subjects and they also sit Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT4) which provide the school with a picture of their cognitive abilities. Pupils start their GCSE syllabus in the Core Subjects in Year 9 and they select their GCSE options allowing them to deepen their interest in the subjects that they will take for examination. All students have the opportunity to take part in planned work experience for one week in Year 10.

Moving on from Year 11, pupils are supported to make positive choices about their further education and strong links are forged between the school and its Sixth Form and local colleges. Youth Connexions provide careers interviews to all Year 10s & 11s and they support students with EHCPs with transition in both Year 9 and 11. Pupils with EHCPs receive specialist guidance and support in order to make their transition successful.

***How are the school's resources allocated and matched to children's SEND?***

The school's core funding for SEND is matched to a range of in house and external provision. Parents will be informed of any additional funding that their child may be eligible for.

***How is the decision made about how much support my child will receive?***

The SENDCO in consultation with SEND team will agree on the level of support that each student requires and will keep parents regularly informed about their support programme.

***How can I find information about the local authority's Local Offer of services and provision for children and young people with SEND?***

To find out more about Hertfordshire's Local Offer of services and provisions for students with SEND visit [www.hertsdirect.org/localoffer](http://www.hertsdirect.org/localoffer).