



# Arden Multi-Academy Trust

Lode Heath School is an academy maintained by Arden Multi-Academy Trust.

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Lead	Amer Mohammed	
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## **Lode Heath SEND Information Report**

Lode Heath School is an inclusive school which values the individuality and uniqueness of all students. We want to give all our students every opportunity to achieve their best. This includes all young people, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical status and ability. We want all our young people to feel they belong to the community of Lode Heath. We have an inclusive ethos with high expectations and suitable targets for everyone, a broad and balanced curriculum for all young people and systems to identify barriers which may stop our young people from learning and getting the most out of life at school.

At Lode Heath, we welcome everybody from our local community. We believe that our school should provide every young person with the opportunity to achieve their best. Parents, when considering Lode Heath as a choice of school for their child must understand that we are a mixed ability mainstream school with limited resources and no specialist provision. This is when compared to specialist schools or those schools which have an additional resource centre.

Every student at Lode Heath has the opportunity to follow a broad curriculum in Years 7 to 9 as well as following an appropriate GCSE or Vocational Curriculum options and Post-16 options pathway.

We are committed to making sure that young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability achieve and make as much progress as their peers, with a focus on narrowing the gap in attainment between them. There are a number of ways that we attempt to do this through the use of quality first teaching, differentiation, personalisation and intervention sessions to support pupils. We pride ourselves in providing the platform for students to make effective social relationships. It is our policy, wherever possible, not to withdraw young people from lessons so all students have a fully inclusive experience, however, we also recognise that at times, some students require specific short-term intervention which cannot always be delivered within the classroom. We expect all young people regardless of their ability to undertake a full and broad curriculum.

We strive for excellent attendance at Lode Heath with young people wanting to come to school as they enjoy the lessons and make good friends.

### **SEND and disabilities for which we make provision at Lode Heath**

At Lode Heath, we have a fully inclusive ethos with all students having access to a broad and balanced curriculum delivered through high quality teaching. A small number of our children do have special educational needs, approximately 14.5% which is which is 1.1% higher than in other secondary schools across the country. We have regard to the definition of Special Educational Needs and/or Disability as stated in the Government's Code of Practice: "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." (Special Educational Needs and disability code of practice: 0 – 25 years, 2014). Special educational provision means educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for others of the same age in a mainstream setting in England. Children have a learning

difficulty if they: Have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age or have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in mainstream schools. (Special Educational Needs and disability code of practice: 0 – 25 years, 2014) A disabled person is defined by the Equality Act 2010 as: Someone who has ‘a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities

Although we do not have any specialist teachers in school on a daily basis, we do have access to a Specialist SEND teacher who works across the multi academy trust as well as access to specialists working for external agencies. We support our children well through a focus on quality first teaching and effective differentiation. This helps to ensure that young people can access the curriculum and take part within the mainstream mixed ability classes throughout the school.

At Lode Heath, we work with children who have literacy difficulties and needs connected to Dyslexia; Autistic Spectrum Conditions; Speech, Language and Communication Difficulties; Sensory Difficulties, as well as a small number with Physical Conditions and Hearing Impairments.

There are four types of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, decided by the Department for Education:

1. Communication and interaction (how we communicate with others, this includes speech, understanding and expression of language both verbal and written as well as understanding and using social communication. Difficulties may include autistic spectrum conditions, speech and language difficulties)
2. Cognition and learning (How we think, process and learn new ideas often based on past learning and experience. Difficulties may include Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, and Dyscalculia)
3. Social, emotional and mental health (How we cope with social interaction, emotional regulation and resilience. Difficulties may include Anxiety Disorders, Attachment Disorders)
4. Sensory or physical (Effective use of our body and Senses. Difficulties may include Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Hearing or Visual Impairment.)

If a child has Special Educational Needs and/or Disability, then their needs will fit into one or more of these categories.

### **Identifying students with SEND and assessing their needs**

During transition, students who have been identified as having SEND at Primary School are transferred at the appropriate level of support. As well as this, on becoming part of Lode Heath, we will assess each student’s current skills and levels of attainment on entry, including baseline testing, this information is shared with teaching and support staff. Prior attainment measures are also used including SATS data. We also utilize our Special SEND Teacher as part of our SEND pathway who will observe every SEND child identified in Year 7

in the first term and provide advice and guidance in the form of suggested strategies for teachers.

Class teachers also make regular assessments of progress for all students and identify those whose progress:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline.
- Fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress.
- Fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers.
- Widens the attainment gap.

This may include progress in areas other than attainment, for example, social needs.

Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a pupil is recorded as having SEND.

We work closely with our teachers so they have a good understanding of the difficulties children with Special Educational Needs face. Through this training, we also address the typical signs and characteristics of various additional needs ensuring all staff are aware and able to identify areas of difficulty early.

If a student is not making progress despite quality first teaching, Lode Heath follows the advised recommendations in the SEND Code of Practice 2014 of the graduated approach – assess, plan, do, review to further identify and meet needs. If a student continues to not make adequate progress or a specific area of need is noted, the SENCO, in discussion with parents/carers and the student may seek the support of external agencies for further assessment or intervention.

### **Identifying potential SEND where no need is currently recognised**

At Lode Heath, we recognise that sometimes parents may feel their child has a special educational need even when this has not yet been identified in school. In such cases, we follow the Graduated Response pathway in line with the SEND Code of Practice. This process begins with a meeting with parents to share concerns and agree strategies that will be implemented both at home and in school. Over a typical period of half a term, evidence is gathered by parents and staff about the impact of these strategies.

It is important to note that without evidence from both home and school, the process cannot move forward. At the end of this period, the evidence is collated and reviewed by the SEND department and a Specialist Teacher. An informed decision is then made as to whether the evidence suggests moving to the next stage of the Graduated Response, or whether the issues raised have been resolved through the support already provided.

This approach ensures that any decisions are based on a full and balanced picture of the young person's needs, taking into account the views and evidence from both school and home. Please see below what this pathway looks like:



## Consulting and involving students and parents

At Lode Heath we recognise the importance of involving students and parents in relation to their general education as well as any SEND. Information about progress in individual subjects can be discussed at parents' evenings with subject staff, but parents can also meet with staff during the year to discuss progress or areas of concerns by prior appointment.

We will have an early discussion with the pupil and their parents when identifying whether they need special educational provision. These conversations will make sure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty.
- We take into account the parents' and students' concerns.
- Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child.
- Everyone is clear on what the next steps are.
- We will notify parents when it is decided that a pupil will receive SEND support.

The views of young people are very important at school and we like to hear what they think about lots of different parts of school life. We use many different ways to hear their views:

- There is an annual child questionnaire where we find out what children think about school. The results of this questionnaire are used by the Senior Leadership Team to improve the school.
- If a child takes part in an intervention programme, then they will contribute their views to the review of progress at the end.

If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan, their views will be sought before any review meetings.

### **Assessing and reviewing students' progress towards outcomes**

All children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability will be assessed the same way as their peers, which is explained in our Assessment policy. We set individual targets for each student, to promote progress.

How your child performs against these targets, what they currently are achieving and their attitude towards their learning are reported to parents through a whole report once a year, a parent's evening once a year and grade reports each term.

We check how well we are supporting young people to make progress through a number of ways. We observe students in lessons to see how they are getting involved in their learning during lesson time, by looking at their exercise books and folders to see the standard of their work in class and at home, by listening to young people in focus groups and student voice and by using questionnaires at parent's evening.

For students with SEND, Lode Heath will follow the graduated approach and the four-part cycle of **assess, plan, do, review**.

All teachers and support staff who work with the student will be made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided, and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required. We will regularly review the effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the student's progress.

If a student has an Education, Health, Care Plan then an annual review will be held during the academic year. The views of the student, parents and staff are collated and discussed at the meeting as part of the monitoring of progress against outcomes and targets.

### **Supporting students moving between phases and preparing for adulthood**

We will share information with the school, college, or other setting the student is moving from/to. We will agree with parents and students which information will be shared as part of this.

Prior to starting at Lode Heath, liaison is carried out between Lode Heath staff and Primary placement staff to ensure information regarding SEND, needs, effective strategies and interventions or outside agency involvement are passed on.

A planned induction programme takes place for students in the Summer Term, for students deemed to be more vulnerable, there is opportunity for attendance at an additional day to the Induction Day.

There is an opportunity for parents to attend a meeting at school where they receive general school information, as well as this there is the opportunity for parents of students with SEND to meet with the SENCO.

All children who join the school after the official start of the year in September are screened on entry, to check for any areas of need and to provide information to staff about their strengths and additional needs.

A senior student is chosen to support your child's form for the first few days of being at Lode Heath. The senior student takes your child to lessons, introduces them to other children, answers questions and lets teachers know how well your child is settling into school.

We always make contact with your child's previous school to ensure the transfer of information and your child's school file.

Students moving into Key Stage 4 will choose options for their GCSEs, during this time they will be given guidance and support in choosing the options most appropriate to them. Students with SEND and especially those with an EHCP will receive extra support at this time.

In Year 11 all students have 1 to 1 career guidance to support their decisions regarding post 16. Young People with an EHCP will begin discussing this from Year 9 onwards to better prepare them for the next phase. Students are encouraged to visit a range of post 16 settings and open days.

### **Our approach to teaching students with SEND**

Lode Heath supports the view, laid out in the SEND Code of Practice that 'high quality teaching, differentiated for individual students is the first step in responding to students who have or may have SEND. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching.'

Our teachers have the highest expectations for your child. All teaching is based on building on what your child already knows, can do and can understand. The teachers will put in place different ways of teaching so that your child is fully involved in learning in their class. This may involve things like using more practical learning or additional writing frames. The teacher will also put in place specific strategies (which may be suggested by the SENCO or specialists from outside agencies) to allow your child to take part in the learning tasks. All young people in school receive this and therefore have the opportunity to access a broad and balanced curriculum.

Through a creative and well-developed training programme, our teachers have developed lots of ways to check the learning and progress of students. Teachers will identify any gaps in understanding and or learning and if your child needs some additional help.

Where possible all needs are met within the classroom situation, either by the mainstream teacher or collaboratively with other members of staff or external agencies. There are times however, when a young person may need specific intervention which cannot be carried out within the classroom. When these happen they take place in short term blocks and every effort is made to ensure students do not miss out on classroom learning. Interventions may include: reading, spelling, comprehension, memory and vocabulary.

## **Adaptations to the curriculum and learning environment**

Lode Heath is proud to welcome every disabled young person who has been offered a place at our school via the Solihull Education Authority admissions board.

The school works hard to ensure that every disabled young person joining the school has the same great opportunities and positive experiences as every other member of the class, subject of course to any health and safety considerations.

It must be noted that Lode Heath is a large school. Your child will be expected to access around 15 different classrooms each week. Whilst it is possible for us to consider timetabling many of these lessons on a particular floor, there are certain facilities that are not accessible on lower levels. In addition to this there are many specialist classrooms across the school that will result in your child having to walk long distances between lessons. The specialist nature of certain subjects means that the necessity to walk large distances between lessons is unavoidable. Lode Heath does have a number of lifts for the use of students with physical mobility difficulties who need to access upper floors.

We make the following adaptations to ensure all students' needs are met:

Differentiating our curriculum to ensure all students are able to access it, for example, by grouping, 1:1 work, teaching style, content of the lesson, etc.

Adapting our resources and staffing, this may include the use of support staff where appropriate.

Using recommended aids, such as laptops, coloured overlays, visual timetables, larger font, etc.

Differentiating our teaching, for example, giving longer processing times, pre-teaching of key vocabulary, reading instructions aloud, using visual aids, providing writing frames, etc.

<b>Additional support for learning</b>				
	<b>Cognition and Learning</b>	<b>Communication and Interaction</b>	<b>Emotional, Social and Mental Health</b>	<b>Sensory and/or Physical Medical Conditions</b>
<b>Transition (Primary School, Years 5 and 6)</b>	Pastoral visits to primary schools • SENCO attends review meetings and visits primary schools and gathers SEND information • Ongoing liaison work between subject departments and primary schools • New Intake Evening • Induction Day in the Y6 Summer Term • Open Evening • Year 6 Additional Transition • DATA Exchange • More Vulnerable Day			
<b>KS3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)</b>	<p>Student Suggested Strategies</p> <p>Wave 2 strategies; morning registration, reading for Years 7, 8 and 9</p> <p>Wave 3 external specialist teaching</p> <p>Assessment &amp; Reporting</p> <p>Student Information to staff</p> <p>Homework club</p> <p>ICT software available during clubs</p> <p>Access Arrangements</p> <p>Learning Mentors</p>	<p>LOW INCIDENCE</p> <p>Student Suggested Strategies</p> <p>Advice from the Speech and Language Service</p> <p>Visual Timetable, if appropriate</p> <p>Whole School INSET</p> <p>Increased visual aids in class</p> <p>Structure of school and class routines</p> <p>Environmental Clues (Signs etc.)</p>	<p>Student Suggested Strategies</p> <p>Pupil Pass</p> <p>Homework Club</p> <p>Pastoral Support Time-out card</p> <p>Form Tutor Support</p> <p>External Counselling</p> <p>Student mentoring</p>	<p>LOW INCIDENCE</p> <p>The school offers an individual response to the wide range of needs from monitoring to more intensive support, which may be for the short, medium, or long term to enable access to an inclusive mainstream placement. Staff are aware of impairment implications.</p>
<b>KS4 (Years 10 and 11)</b>	<p>As above, plus:</p> <p>Guided Options Choices</p>		<p>As above, plus:</p> <p>Guided Options Choices</p>	

<b>Additional support for learning</b>				
	<b>Cognition and Learning</b>	<b>Communication and Interaction</b>	<b>Emotional, Social and Mental Health</b>	<b>Sensory and/or Physical Medical Conditions</b>
	Special Exam Arrangements Revision Classes Supplementary Coursework Sessions			
<b>Access Strategies</b>	Quality First Teaching Learning Styles Assessment Writing Frames/ Word Banks/Learning Journey Student Information to staff Mixed/ Set Ability Differentiated Teaching School Marking Policy School Homework Policy Advice from external Specialists KS4 Option Choices	Positive Language Environment Student Information to staff Mentoring Differentiated Teaching	Transition Support Mentoring Form Tutor Mentoring Pastoral System Whole School Behaviour Policy Whole School Class Rules Standard Operating Procedures School Sanction Policy School Reward Policy	Disabled Toilets Medical Room Medical Support Homework Club Handrails Wet room with hoist/changing table/Closimat Toilet Lifts in all 2 storey buildings

<b>Additional support for learning</b>				
	<b>Cognition and Learning</b>	<b>Communication and Interaction</b>	<b>Emotional, Social and Mental Health</b>	<b>Sensory and/or Physical Medical Conditions</b>
	Work Experience Special Exam Arrangements			
<b>Liaison with Parents</b>	SENCO by request or at scheduled review meetings • Subject teachers by request or at scheduled Parents Evenings (Options Evening Year 9) • Form Tutor • Head of Year • Attendance Officer • Other external agencies - via referral • Solihull SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Information, Advice and Support Service for Parents			
<b>Partner Agencies</b>	Solihull SISS HI, VI and PI Service • Solihull SISS Autism Service • Early Help • Children Mental Health Services (Solar and Forward Thinking Birmingham) • Solihull SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Information, Advice and Support Service for Parents • Education Participation Advisory Service • School Nurse • Conatus			
<b>Continuing Professional Development</b>	Whole School INSET from internal / external source • Targeted departmental / individual training • Knowledge disseminated • Inclusive practice self-evaluated • School Development Plan • Rolling programme of training			

### **Expertise and training of staff**

Every school has a development plan that includes training needs for all staff to improve the teaching and learning of all children including those with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability. This may include whole school training on Special Educational Needs and/or Disability issues or to support children in school with one particular need, such as autism, dyslexia, etc. The purpose of whole staff training is to share knowledge, strategies, and experience, and ensure consistency of our school's approach for children with a Special Educational Needs and/or Disability. Teachers and support staff also attend training courses

run by outside agencies that are relevant to the needs of specific children in their class. The SENCO also works closely with specialists from external support services who may provide advice or direct support as appropriate.

We have a team of 5 learning support assistants, most of which are part time, who are trained to deliver SEND provision.

We have access to a Specialist SEND Teacher two days in a week.

staff have been trained in:

- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- ADHD
- Autism
- Physical disabilities
- Hearing impairment
- Visual impairment
- SEMH
- General SEND strategies
- Speech, language and communication impairment

### **Securing equipment and facilities**

Our school has a duty to provide auxiliary aids and equipment in accordance with the needs assessed for young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability. This will be completed in consultation with external specialist services.

Please refer to Solihull Local Authority's Local Offer for more information. The link to the page is <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-family-support/localoffer>

### **How do we contribute to the Local Authority's Local Offer?**

As a school we contribute to the Local Authority's Local Offer by providing up-to-date information for children, young people and families about its SEND provision, policies and practice. This includes information about the kinds of needs we support, our arrangements for identifying and meeting SEND, our approach to working with parents, carers and external professionals, and the support available for transition and preparation for adulthood. We also contribute through regular partnership working with the local authority, health and support services, participation in statutory reviews where appropriate, and by helping families to access wider services and support available in the local area. Further information about the Local Offer is available on the Local Authority's website.

### **Evaluating the effectiveness of SEND provision**

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for students with SEND by:

- Reviewing students' individual progress each term
- Reviewing the impact of interventions via baseline and end of intervention assessment.

- Student voice
- Using student questionnaires
- Monitoring by the SENCO
- Using provision maps to measure progress
- Holding annual reviews for students with EHC plans

### **Enabling students with SEND to engage in activities available to those in the school who do not have SEND**

At Lode Heath all students are encouraged to take part in

- Extra-Curricular Sports
- Competitions, both regional and national
- School Club Links
- Charity Work
- Music
- Drama
- School Visits

The timetable for these activities is sent out at the beginning of each term as well as ongoing letters and notices.

No student is ever excluded from taking part in these activities because of their SEND or disability.

### **Support for students who are LAC and have SEND**

Where a child or young person is looked after by the local authority and have a Special Educational Need, the SENCo will provide a high level of input into Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings and may be a point of contact for alongside the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children with regards to special educational provision.

### **Support for improving emotional and social development**

It is important to remember that we also want the same as parents, in making sure your child is happy and successful at school. In order to do this it is essential that we apply the same encouragement, rewards and sanctions which is consistent and well communicated.

Keeping in close contact is really important in making sure your child is happy. If any problems occur at school, at home or both, you should contact your child's Head of Year, particularly in difficult circumstances. Nipping negative signs, however small, in the bud is best way to avoid problems growing.

Your child can only reach their best if they feel happy and safe at school. We believe that all children have the right to education free from bullying. We operate zero tolerance of bullying. Further information can be found in our policy on 'Anti-bullying'.

## **Working with other agencies**

We work with a number of external agencies, which support both the school and your family. They include:

- Solihull SISS HI, VI and PI Service
- Solihull SISS Autism Service
- Early Help
- Children Mental Health Services (Solar and Forward Thinking Birmingham)
- Solihull SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Information, Advice and Support Service for Parents
- Education Participation Advisory Service
- School Nurse
- Audiology
- Conatus

If you have any queries about these external agencies, please do not hesitate to contact the SENCO. However, please note that many of these external agencies are purchased on a year to year basis, and may change to reflect the majority of needs in the school.

## **Complaints about SEND provision**

We endeavour to do our best for all young people but if there are any concerns we encourage those concerned to approach your child's Head of Year or SENCO and a response will be made as soon as possible.

Please read our complaints policy for further information

## **Contact details of support services for parents of students with SEND**

We support the use of Solihull SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Information, Advice and Support Service for Parents. Additional service information will be sent home, as and when we become aware of them.

Here is a link to their website: <https://www.family-action.org.uk/solihullsendias/>

You can email them with this address: [solihullsendias@family-action.org.uk](mailto:solihullsendias@family-action.org.uk)

There is further information available in Solihull Local Authority's Local Offer. The link to the page is <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-family-support/localoffer>

## **Contacting us**

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) - Mr Mohammed  
0121 704 1421 [amohammed@lodeheath.org.uk](mailto:amohammed@lodeheath.org.uk)

High Needs Manager – Mrs Hopwood  
0121 704 1421 [shopwood@lodeheath.org.uk](mailto:shopwood@lodeheath.org.uk)

Director of Learning Support – Miss Thompson  
0121 704 1421 [rthompson@lodeheath.org.uk](mailto:rthompson@lodeheath.org.uk)

Assistant Head teacher with responsibility for Inclusion  
Mr Mohammed 0121 7041421 [amohammed@lodeheath.org.uk](mailto:amohammed@lodeheath.org.uk)