

NUAST Special Education Needs Report 2023

Nottingham University Academy for Science and Technology is an inclusive mainstream secondary school. We are immensely proud of our inclusive ethos and pupil diversity. We work hard to ensure that all pupils', regardless of their specific needs, are valued and are provided with every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

As set out in the SEN Code of Practice;

'A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. 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,

or

- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.'

1: What kinds of Special Educational Needs, SEN, do we provide for at NUAST?

At NUAST we have a broad range of pupils with SEND needs. These include;

- Cognition and Learning needs
- Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and other Specific Learning Difficulties
- Communication and Interaction
- Autistic Spectrum Disorders [ASD]
- Sensory and Physical needs
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties

2: How do we identify and assess pupils with SEN?

We are committed to the early identification of pupils with special educational needs. We use several methods to support the identification process. These include;

- Information gathered from a pupil's previous school
- Observing a pupil during transition days
- Information provided by external agencies and medical professionals

- Concerns raised by class teachers and or support staff using our internal SEND referral system
- Analysis of attendance, behavioural, attainment and attitude to learning (ATL) data
- Concerns raised by parents/carers
- Observations made of a pupil during lesson time and unstructured time
- Reading tests which provide us with data about each pupil's reading age and ability
- Additional information is collected through specialist diagnostic screeners such as RAPID and LASS.

Where a pupil is not making adequate progress, teachers, the SENDCO (special educational needs coordinator) and parents/carers collaborate on problem solving, planning, support and teaching strategies for individual pupils. External agencies may be involved to support this process. On entry to NUAST all students will be assessed using reading age and cognitive processes tests including CAT tests. These are a series of tests designed to highlight cognitive strengths and weaknesses in a range of areas. If deemed necessary this can then lead to a more detailed assessment which will inform teaching strategies and help with exam arrangements. If a parent thinks their child may have special educational needs they should firstly contact the child's tutor.

Teachers will notify the head of year to highlight the needs of the child and what strategies have already put in place for that child. This will allow the SENDCO as part of the Inclusion Team to be able to liaise with the parent / pupil / agency to help identify and plan the appropriate support.

Students who present a concern are allocated a key worker and SEND status. The key worker works with the student to help better identify the needs they present in the academy environment, they produce a learning support plan allowing a more bespoke package of intervention to be arranged for the student to better meet their needs.

As part of our comprehensive transition programme, in year 6, NUAST's SEND team meets with the SENDCOs at primary schools to discuss each individual pupils' needs. Information gathered includes details about;

- A pupil's specific difficulties
- The measures already in place to support a pupil's learning
- Strategies that will help support a successful transition for the pupil from primary school to secondary school.
- Agencies and professionals involved with student support

Our SEND team also works closely with parents/carers and external agencies to provide additional transition support. This may include;

- Meeting with pupil's, parents/carers and professional agencies to discuss the individual needs of the pupil in more detail
- The SEND team visiting a pupil's current school
- Arranging 1:1 and informal visits to NUAST

3.1 How does the school evaluate the effectiveness of its provision for such pupils?

At NUAST we continually strive to improve and develop our provision for pupils with special educational needs. We regularly monitor and evaluate the quality of our SEND provision in the following ways;

- Regular meetings of the Inclusion Team
- Regular parental contact/reviews (Offered Termly)
- Tracking attendance, academic and behavioural data
- Reviewing of plans and student strategies frequently
- Weekly QA learning walks by the SENDco

3.2 What are the school's arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of pupils with special educational needs?

NUAST staff make ongoing assessments throughout the year, with achievement coordinators and Heads of Year regularly tracking pupil progress. The data gathered from baseline assessments, weekly, half termly, termly and annual assessments is used to inform the academic grouping of pupils with special education needs.

All pupil data is regularly reviewed with a wide range of staff including, pastoral leaders, curriculum leaders and the designated school SENDCO. If a pupil is identified as not making expected progress additional measures are put in place to effectively assess if a pupil has an additional learning need.

Feedback relating to pupil progress is provided to pupils, parents/carers, via termly reports, parent's evenings, parental meetings, annual reviews, through the use of translators, phone calls home and e-mails.

Parents/carers are actively encouraged to contact the pupil's tutor, pastoral lead, keyworker or the school SENDCO at any time to discuss their child's progress.

3.3 What is the school's approach to teaching pupils with special educational needs?

At NUAST we pride ourselves on our inclusive approach to teaching and learning, and we regard all teachers as teachers of SEND. Staff, including teaching and support staff receive weekly CPD which focuses on different aspects of teaching and learning, as well as developing specialist skills and knowledge to support pupils with SEND. Additional and specialist training is also provided by external agencies. This includes (but not limited to);

- The Autism Team
- The Behaviour Support Team
- Learning Support Team
- Educational Psychologists

Every effort is made to educate pupils with SEND alongside their peers in a mainstream classroom setting. Student profiles are available through the school database (bromcom) for all teaching staff. This sets out specific information relating to the pupil, including barriers to learning, strategies to aid learning as well as the strengths of the pupil. As part of the review process staff are actively encouraged to share successful strategies and good practice relating to the pupil which are then included in the SEND Register.

If the teaching of a pupil with SEND alongside their peers is not possible, then the SENDCO will consult with the pupil's parents/ carers. Staff are able to consult with the SENDCO, as and when required for additional support and advice to support pupils in the classroom. Parents/carers are encouraged to share information and knowledge about their child with the school in order to determine how the pupil can best be supported.

3.4 How does the school adapt the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with special educational needs?

- Keeping staff fully informed of the special educational needs of any pupils in their charge including sharing progress reports, medical reports and teacher feedback.
- Providing regular CPD opportunities for staff in all departments on the subject of SEND and SEND teaching. School staff should be up to date with teaching methods which will aid the progress of all pupils including those with SEND.
- Using in-class provisions and TA support effectively to ensure that the curriculum is differentiated where necessary.

All students in NUAST are placed into appropriate classes according to their profile on entry. All teachers are expected to differentiate their teaching to match individual needs. Further strategies to ensure children can access the curriculum include:

- Lower/Higher ability groupings
- Specialist and precision teaching and support, provided by the Learning Support team.

- Reduced class sizes
- In class support in the form of Learning Support Assistants or other additional staff
- Additional literacy and reading interventions
- Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA).
- Academic mentoring/Online Tutoring
- 1:1 Mentoring
- R2i, Routes to Inclusion Programme of support
- Positive reward systems
- Targeted subject interventions
- Additional support from external providers such as CAMHS, KOOTH, Educational Psychologist, Behaviour Support Team, Autism Team, ADHD Nurse specialist.

At NUAST the school building is fully accessible. The school has a lift to ensure that every floor is accessible to all pupils. Additional facilities include;

- A medical room for the administration of medication and medical procedures
- Accessible break and dining areas
- Accessible toilets in all teaching blocks
- Evac chairs and emergency procedures for identified pupils
- All outside spaces are fully accessible
- Disabled parking bays
- Elevator access
- We work closely with outside agencies to provide specialist equipment and advice for identified pupils.

The school works with a fully trained and qualified exams access assessor. If staff have concerns relating to a pupil being able to access learning, staff are able to refer pupils for assessments as and when required. We also have in place a rolling programme of screening for Access Arrangements to support pupils in the learning environment, completing assessments and formal examinations. The qualified assessor conducts further tests in order to provide the necessary evidence for JCQ at Key Stage 4.

3.5 How are decisions made about the type and amount of support pupils with special educational needs receive?

Where it is determined that a pupil has a special educational need, parents/carers are formally advised and all relevant information is added to the pupil's school record.

The aim of formally identifying a pupil with SEND is to help school ensure that effective provision is put in place and so remove barriers to learning. The support provided consists of a four – part process:

- Assess
- Plan
- Do
- Review

This is an ongoing cycle to enable the provision to be refined and revised as the understanding of the needs of the pupil grows. This cycle enables the identification of those interventions which are the most effective in supporting the pupil to achieve good progress and outcomes.

3.5.1 Assess

This involves clearly analysing the pupil's needs using the class teacher's assessment and experience of working with the pupil, details of previous progress and attainment, comparisons with peers and national data, as well as the views and experience of parents. The pupil's views and where relevant, advice from external support services will also be considered. Any parental concerns will be noted and compared with the school's information and assessment data on how the pupil is progressing. This analysis will require regular review to ensure that support and intervention is matched to need, that barriers to learning are clearly identified and being overcome and that the interventions being used are developing and evolving as required. Where external support staff are already involved their work will help inform the assessment of need. Where they are not involved they may be contacted, if this is felt to be appropriate, following discussion and agreement from parents.

3.5.2 Plan

Planning will involve consultation between the teacher, SENDCO and parents/carers to agree the adjustments, interventions and support that are required to meet the pupils needs. The impact on progress, development and or behaviour that is expected and a clear date for review. Parental/carer involvement may be sought, where appropriate, to reinforce or contribute to progress at home. All those working with the pupil, including support staff will be informed of their individual needs, the support that is being provided, any particular teaching strategies/approaches that are being employed and the outcomes that are being sought.

3.5.3 Do

The class teacher remains responsible for working with the child on a day to day basis. They will retain responsibility even where the interventions may involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class teacher. The teacher will work closely with teaching assistants and /or relevant specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and links with classroom teaching. Support with further assessment of the pupil's strengths and weaknesses, problem solving and advising of the implementation of effective support will be provided by the SENDCO.

3.5.4 Review

Reviews will be completed in line with agreed dates. The review process will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. It will also take account of the views of the pupil and their parents/carer. The class teacher, in conjunction with the SENDCO will revise the support and outcomes based on the pupil's progress and development making any necessary amendments. Parents/carers will be provided with clear information about the impact of support to enable them to be involved in planning the next steps. If a child has lifelong or significant difficulties they may undergo a Statutory Assessment Process. This can be requested by the school, or parents/carers. This will occur where the complexity of need, or a lack of clarity around the needs of the pupil are such that a multi-agency approach to assessing that need, planning provision and or identifying resources is required. The decision to make a referral for an Education, Health and Care Plan will be taken at a progress review.

The application for an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans will combine information from a variety of sources including:

- Parents/carers
- Teachers
- SENDCO
- Social Care
- Health professionals

Information will be gathered relating to the current provision provided, action points that have been taken, and the preliminary outcomes of targets set. A decision will be made by a group of people from education, health and social care about whether or the child is eligible for an EHC Plan. Parents/carers have the right to appeal against a decision not to initiate a statutory assessment which may lead to an EHC Plan. The school has links with external support services in order to fully support our SEND pupils and aid school inclusion. The following services will be involved as and when is necessary:

- School nurse
- Community Paediatrician
- Psychiatric services
- Occupational Health
- Physiotherapy
- Parent Partnership
- Early Help Unit
- Educational Welfare Support Service (EWO)
- Schools and Families Support Services
- Behaviour Support Team
- Autism Team
- Learning Support Team
- Sensory and Physical Team
- Community Educational Psychology Service
- CAMHs

3.6 How does the school enable pupils with special educational needs to engage in the activities of the school (including physical activities) together with children who do not have special educational needs?

All children, regardless of need, are encouraged to get involved with activities outside the classroom, including school trips. Reasonable adjustments are also made to ensure children can fully participate in all school visits including work experience. This may involve additional Learning Support Assistant support or alternative arrangements to support their involvement. Students at NUAST are offered opportunities to get involved with enrichment opportunities and are supported as necessary. Reasonable adjustments are also made to ensure children can fully participate in all school visits. This may involve additional staff support. Extracurricular trips and residential visits in all key stages.

3.7 What support is available for improving the emotional, mental and social development of pupils with special educational needs?

NUAST's pastoral system is organised into year teams which consists of a Head of Year, a team of Pastoral Support Officers and a team of tutors. The pastoral team hold regular meetings where pastoral issues are discussed. This team is overseen and supported by the School Leader for Inclusion and the Assistant SENDco.

As part of the pastoral curriculum, pupils attend morning tutor sessions for registration and take part in activities including those designed to develop positive mental health. We try to support the emotional and social development of all our pupils, including those with SEND. A programme of social and emotional education through Personal Development (PSHE) is taught weekly which covers a range of issues including mental and physical health.

However, for those children who find aspects of this difficult we offer an in-school counselling system via KOOTH, alongside supported lunchtime and break times. If further social/emotional support is required, this can be arranged through the Tutor, Head of Year or SENDCO and may take the form of discussions with school staff or a referral for counselling by an outside agency such as Kooth. Where appropriate, we work with parents to get support from external agencies, including the Parent Support Adviser, Family Support Worker or Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

4. What is the name and contact details of the SEND coordinator?

The SENDCO (Also School Leader for Inclusion) is Simon Cox.

Mr Cox can be contacted by telephone at school on 0115 859 2040 or by email: scox@nuast.org

5. What training have staff received to help support pupils with special education needs?

The SENDCO attends all relevant, up to date training (including statutory national qualifications) on a regular basis. All Teaching Assistants attend in school continuing

professional development sessions (CPD) and individual CPD is encouraged. As a whole staff we have regular training and updates of SEND issues. The SENDCO will attend all relevant Local Authority training. The Educational Psychology Service and other City SEN teams also provide training for staff on issues relevant to the school cohort. The SENDCO will also attend the Nova Education Trust SENDCO network meetings.

6. How are equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs secured?

Pupils with significant SEND will have access to Element 1 and 2 of a school's budget (up to £6,000 per year). Element 2 funding is a notional SEN budget allocated by a formula funded based on prior attainment and is not allocated to specific pupils. Some pupils with SEND may access additional funding through the Higher Level Needs (HLN) Funding Panel at Nottingham City Council. In order to access this funding the SENDCO will write a bid in conjunction with class teachers, support staff and with the agreement of a member of SEND support services.

Every effort will be made to secure additional funding from the HLN bidding process and other agencies should this be considered necessary. We work together with the other schools within our education trust to support the training needs of staff. The schools in the trust also support each other with specialist knowledge and joint training. The SENDCO and the Head of School allocate the funding in the best way they believe necessary to support individual children's needs. This may include:

- Teaching assistant support within the classroom as part of a small group
- Teaching assistant support outside the classroom as part of a small group
- Teaching assistant support on a one to one basis in the classroom
- Teaching assistant support on a one to one basis outside the classroom
- Assistive technology and specialist resources
- Software
- Intervention packages
- Staff training
- Specialist bought in staff e.g. counsellors, educational psychology services, SEN support teams, specialist tutors

The entrance to the main school building has an accessible approach and doors suitable for wheelchair access. The building is on three floors with a lift enabling full access to all rooms on both floors. Disabled toilets are available on all floors. Disabled parking is provided and the outside space is fully accessible.

7. What are the arrangements for consulting parents of children with special educational needs about, and involving such parents in, the education of their child?

Parents/carers are invited to review meetings, parent/carer information evenings and to contribute to their child's Pupil Profile. Information on support agencies, including the Parent Partnership Project, is available from the SENDCO. Parents are also made aware of the SENDCO during the transition process for pupils in year 6. Parents can contact their child's tutor via email or by phoning or emailing the school office. Parents are kept up to date with their child's progress through parent's

evenings, reviews meetings, student review days and progress reports three times a year. In cases where more frequent regular contact with parents is necessary, this will be arranged based on the individual pupil's needs.

The SENDCO may also signpost parents of pupils with SEND to the local authority Parent Partnership service where specific advice, guidance and support may be required. If an assessment or referral indicates that a pupil has additional learning needs the parents and the pupil will always be consulted with regards to future provision. Parents are invited to attend meetings with external agencies regarding their child, and are kept up to date and consulted on any points of action drawn up in regards to the provision for their child.

8. What are the arrangements for consulting young people with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education?

We value and celebrate children being able to express their views on all aspects of school life. This is usually carried out through the School Council, which has an open forum for any issues or viewpoints to be raised. If your child is on SEN Support or has an EHC Plan then their views will be obtained before any meetings and will form part of the review process.

9. What arrangements are made by the governing body relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school?

If a parent or carer has any concerns or complaints regarding the care or welfare of their child, an appointment can be made by them to speak to the SENDCO, who will try to resolve any difficulties and also be able to advise on formal procedures for complaint. The head teacher and senior leadership team will aim to resolve any complaints as soon as possible. A copy of the school complaints policy is available on the school website.

10. How does the governing body involve other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and in supporting the families of such pupils?

The school continues to build strong working relationships and links with external support services in order to fully support our SEND pupils, aid school inclusion and provide support for parents. The following services can be involved as and when it is necessary:

- Schools and Families Support Services
- Sensory Impaired Support
- Educational Psychology Service
- School nurse / Health Visitor
- Community Paediatrician
- Behaviour Support Team
- Autism Team
- Learning Support Team
- Sensory and Physical Team

- Community Educational Psychology Service
- Occupational Health/Physiotherapy
- Parent Partnership
- Targeted Support
- CAMHS

11. The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs, including those for arrangements made in accordance with section 32.

The SENDCO can signpost organisations and services that provide additional support and can be contacted by phone or email. Organisations and agencies that may offer additional support to parents may be mentioned at termly review meetings. Occasionally courses/events for parents may be sent directly to parents by letter or electronically if school thinks it may be of relevance or interest.

12. What are the school's arrangements for supporting pupils with special educational needs in a transfer between phases of education or in preparation for adulthood and independent living?

Transition to secondary school is supported by close liaison between NUAST staff including the SENDCO and primary school colleagues. A variety of transition events allow children time to meet staff, see the building and become accustomed to a different learning environment.

Additional transition visits are arranged as needed for those students who require more time. These may include visits for short periods during lessons and break times or further discussions with members of staff. There is an additional transition event before the main transition days for pupils with SEND to allow them to start getting used to the new building, school structure and teachers.

At times students with an EHCP may receive support from agencies such as Futures to support successful transitions. The school may also seek support from other agencies such as the Autism Team or Learning Support team to help with the transition.

13. Where is the local authority's local offer published?

More information on what is available to children with SEN and their parents/carers in Nottinghamshire can be found on the Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City Local websites.

Offer websites:

<http://www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/localoffer.page>

<http://fis.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/>

For the current cohorts we have experienced support staff who provide individual, small group and whole class support for. Teaching staff practise high quality teaching and differentiation as a first response to ensure all individual students' needs are met.