



## Special Educational Needs Information Report

Owner:	Carolyn Wittke
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Marling School and Sixth Form, Cainscross Road, Stroud, Glos, GL5 4HE

Tel: 01453 762251 email: [admin@marling.school](mailto:admin@marling.school)

Part of Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust, registered in England and Wales no. 769339.

Registered office: Cainscross Road, Stroud, GL5 4HE

The purpose of the SEND information report is to inform parents and carers about the way in which we support and make provision for students who have special educational needs at Marling School.

## **Special Educational Needs & Disabilities at Marling School**

### **What is a special educational need?**

A child or young person has a Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child 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.

Special educational provision is educational provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools (SEND Regulations 2014).

### **What type of special educational needs and disabilities do students at Marling have?**

Marling School provides support for students with a range of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) including those with;

- Communication and interaction needs: this includes students who have speech language and communication difficulties and autistic spectrum conditions.
- Cognition and learning needs: this includes students who have specific learning difficulties e.g. dyslexia and dyspraxia.
- Social, emotional and mental health needs: this includes students who have anxiety or ADHD
- Sensory and/or physical needs: this includes students who have visual or hearing needs or a physical disability that affects their learning.

## **The Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Team at Marling and the other bodies we work with:**

### **The team and our expertise**

We are a small but dedicated team who work closely with subject teachers and the pastoral team to ensure all students are able to achieve their potential. You can contact any member of the team by email or by phoning the main school telephone number.

SENCO Carrie Wittke ([CLW@marling.school](mailto:CLW@marling.school))

Ensuring the progress of students with SEND involves all teaching, pastoral and support staff. All staff are aware of the different categories of SEND and receive advice on how to support students in the classroom. New members of staff are trained on SEND as part of their induction programme and teachers receive updates on developments in SEND through the school's INSET training programme.

### **Who to contact when:**

If you are concerned that your child is not making expected progress then please contact your child's subject teacher in the first instance. If you have concerns that they may have a special educational need then contact the SENCO. If your child is on Marling's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities register, then please contact your child's key worker.

### **Working with other services**

The School works with Gloucestershire Education Authority and this is particularly the case where students have a statutory Education and Health Care Plan. Through the Local Authority we also access other services to meet a student's specific needs such as visits from the Hearing Impairment Team.

Where a student is not making expected progress and support and provision provided by the school has not been successful, then we will seek input from specialist professional services such as the Educational Psychology and Advisory Teaching Service. We can also access services such as the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and the Youth Support Team, to meet student's associated health and social care needs. The type of external assessment and support sought will be driven by the student's individual needs and undertaken in full consultation with parents.

### **Children in care**

In addition to the provision set out in this report the welfare and progress of the student will also be monitored and supported by our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Katie Hughes.

### **The process for identifying children and young people with SEND and assessing their needs**

Before students join Marling in Year 7 information regarding students who have already been identified as having SEND is gathered via visits by the Head of Learning Community to all feeder Primary Schools. This information is then passed onto the SENCO who seeks further information where necessary from the schools or from parents/carers and visit the child in their primary school where appropriate. When students join Marling Sixth Form in Year 12 students are asked to provide information regarding any special educational needs on their application forms, and this information is then passed onto the SENCO who gathers further information from schools and parents as necessary.

In addition the following processes are used to identify and assess the needs of students who may have SEND:

- All Year 7 students are assessed in reading and spelling.
- All Year 7 students are assessed using the Cognitive Ability Tests (CATS).
- Referrals from subject teachers and other staff following observations in the classroom
- Tracking data.
- Specialist assessments where appropriate.
- Book/work scrutiny
- Gathering teacher views

### **How we teach students with SEND and provide support to access the curriculum**

At Marling all students including those with SEND have access to the same broad and balanced curriculum and as such all students are taught together in mainstream classes. We are ambitious for our students and we provide a vibrant academic environment that provides pace, challenge and support. Staff have the same ambitions for, and high expectations of, all our students including those with SEND.

Where a student requires educational provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for other students, then they will be placed on Marling's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities register (the SEND register). A SEND plan will be written giving brief details of the student's difficulties along with strategies that will help the student to learn. All teachers will have a copy of this plan and will plan and adapt their lessons accordingly.

Where a student has an Education and Health Care Plan they may also be supported in class by a Teaching Assistant.

All students but particularly those with SEND can drop into the SEND Learning Support Hub room at break or lunch for help with academic work or for support with other learning related issues.

### **How we involve students and parents in planning and reviewing support**

The decision to place a student on the SEND register is always discussed with the student and parents first. Students and parents input is sought when writing SEND plans via a meeting, telephone call or email.

All students who are on the SEND register and have a SEND plan are assigned a key worker who will be a Learning Support Assistant. The key worker meets with the student once a term providing regular opportunities for the student to discuss their progress and support. Parents are notified of their child's key worker and are encouraged to contact them directly or the SENCO with any queries.

SEND plans are reviewed as part of the whole school review process. These take place when tracking reports are published and involve the student, and the student's key worker. Parents are informed that a review is taking place and their views and comments are sought.

Where a student has an Education and Health Care Plan, parents and the student will attend an annual review meeting to discuss progress towards outcomes and the support needed going forward.

As well as these opportunities students and parents are able to request a meeting with the SENCO or other staff member.

### **How we support students to engage with activities outside of the classroom**

All our students including those with SEND are actively encouraged to participate in our range of extracurricular and enrichment activities. Each student's individual needs are considered and teaching assistant support is available to help students attend and participate in activities where necessary.

In advance of any outing, trip or special event, consideration is given to any reasonable adjustments and support which may be required. Provision is then made to ensure that students have access to

the same opportunities and experiences, and this has included teaching assistants accompanying students on trips abroad (this is dependent on the school having a suitably qualified member of the SEND team available for the trip).

### **How we support student's emotional and social development**

At Marling students' emotional and social wellbeing is as important to us as their academic achievement and we recognise that students with SEND can face additional challenges. We therefore work in a close and respectful partnership with students taking full account of their views. Students are always consulted on how they would like support to be provided and we work hard to ensure that we are sensitive to a student's needs and concerns.

Where students have communication and interaction needs we support students during social times in the SEND Learning Support Hub and in the Hub rooms. These are supervised spaces for students to interact with peers in a calm setting. Termly key worker review meetings for students on the SEND register involve a holistic discussion about how the student feels they getting on in school. The key worker remains consistent throughout the student's time at school wherever possible, and they take a proactive interest in the student liaising with both the student and staff to ensure their academic progress as well as their emotional and social wellbeing. Where issues are raised this is passed onto the SENCO, Head of Learning Community or parents where appropriate so that measures can be taken to support the student.

As part of the school curriculum emotional and social development is addressed through timetabled Life Skills lessons which cover topics of citizenship and personal, health and social education. Weekly assemblies delivered by Heads of Year reflect social, emotional, moral and cultural aspects of learning and students' lives.

Emotional and social support is offered through the whole school pastoral system. All students have a form group and their form tutor will in most cases remain with them as they progress up the school. Tutors work with the Head of Learning Community to monitor and support students' emotional and social development. We have non-teaching Pastoral Support Workers for Years 7 – 11 and for Years 12 – 13. Pastoral Support Workers meet with students and provide the opportunity for students to discuss any difficulties they are having ranging from study skills to personal issues. Where appropriate counselling is also arranged with an external professional and referrals are made to Child and Mental Health Services (CAMHS) where higher levels of support and expertise are required. Our school nurse is in school regularly and students can drop in to discuss health related issues. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is also involved in supporting students who are considered vulnerable or at risk.

### **Prevention of bullying**

Marling School regards any bullying as unacceptable and believes that all members of the community have the right to learn and work in a safe, secure and supported environment where they feel free from bullying. The principles of tolerance and understanding and respect for others are central to our work. As we prepare children for adult life we aim to increase confidence, self-respect, regard for others and a sense of responsibility.

The school seeks to prevent bullying by educating students as to the types and signs of bullying, it's consequences and how we can all respond to it. This happens via assemblies and Life Skills lessons and tutor periods where students have the opportunity to discuss the issues. There are clear

procedures for responding to bullying incidents which all staff are aware of to ensure consistency and fairness. Please see our Anti-bullying policy which can be found in the policies section of our website for more information on how Marling prevents and responds to bullying.

### **Arrangements for supporting children and young people in moving between phases of education and in preparing for adulthood**

#### **Joining Marling in Year 7**

At Marling we understand that transition to secondary school is a big step for children. We begin working with students in Year 6 to ensure that they are fully prepared and know what to expect in order to minimise any anxiety they may feel. The Head of Learning Community and SENCO liaise with primary schools to gain as much information as possible about the students, including any SEND information.

Where a student is identified as having a special educational need the following support will also be available as appropriate. This may include visits to the primary school from the SENCO or another member of the SEND team to meet with primary school staff to understand the student's needs, observe the student in lessons, and meet with the student and their parent/carer. All Year 6 students who will be joining Marling are invited in for a transition day in the summer term where they spend the day in their new tutor group and take part in activities to help them prepare for September. Where appropriate additional transition visits and support is arranged.

For students with an Education and Health Care Plan the SENCO attends the Year 5 and Year 6 annual review meetings to plan transition to Secondary School.

#### **Joining Marling in Year 12 and existing students**

All students will meet with a member of the sixth form or senior leadership team to discuss their subject choices. Students with SEND can discuss their support needs and this information will be passed onto the SENCO. The SENCO will then liaise with schools as appropriate. All students attend a two-day induction in the summer term and further transition work will be undertaken as necessary. Parents are welcome to meet the SENCO to discuss their child's needs and the SENCO attends information evenings to answer any queries.

#### **Leaving Marling and preparation for adulthood**

From Year 8 onwards students follow a comprehensive programme of careers guidance and advice. This includes careers talks, interviews and a visit to a University. Details of the full programme of activities can be found on our website or by contacting Mrs Bedford, Assistant Principal.

### **How we evaluate the effectiveness of our provision**

The effectiveness of support in enabling students to make academic progress is evaluated as part of the whole school tracking and reporting process. The impact of support strategies is assessed in discussion with the student taking into account teacher comments. Changes are made if necessary. Effectiveness is also evaluated by analysing GCSE and A Level results.

Students with an EHCP have an annual review meeting once a year where all parties involved with the child come together to evaluate the impact of provision in helping the student to meet their outcomes. This discussion then informs future support and provision planning.

Where students are taking part in an intervention for example to improve spelling, baseline data is gathered and recorded using standardised scores. Students are assessed again at the end of the intervention.

There is an annual report to Governors produced by the Link Governor for special educational needs. The effectiveness of provision is carefully monitored and evaluated by Governors along with the Senior Leadership Team.

### **What to do if you have a complaint**

In the first instance contact the SENCO who will endeavour to resolve your problem. If you are not satisfied, then please contact the Vice Principal with responsibility for SEND, Mrs Katie Hughes. If the student is in Year 12-13, Ms Louise Harris is the Head of Sixth Form.

If your complaint is not resolved, please see the complaints procedure which can be found in the policies section of our website.

### **Further information**

The school's SEND policy can be found in the policies section of the Marling School website.