

# Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

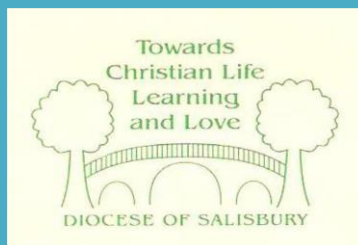
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September 2024

Designated Person responsible for managing the provision for children with SEND:  
Mrs R Massie and Mrs D Young

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***This School is committed to creating the ethos in which children can grow towards Christian life, love and learning.***

*'And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.'*

*John 34-35*

## **SECTION 1 – COMPLIANCE AND GENERAL STATEMENT**

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice 0 – 25 Years (April 2015) and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013
- SEND Code of Practice 0 -25 Years (April 2015)
- Schools SEN Information Report Regulations (2014)
- Statutory Guidance on supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (Dec 2015)
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teachers' Standards (2012)

This Policy has been created to ensure compliance with the Department of Education's SEND Reforms, which address measures outlined in the Children and Families Act 2014. The Act includes changes to the support and services children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities will receive. These changes came into force on 1st September 2014. This policy has been created by Mrs R Massie liaison with the Headteacher, SEN Governor, SLT and staff, with due regard to the input of parents and pupils with SEND.

### Our School

Woodford Valley Primary Academy is a popular, village school set in beautiful countryside and surrounded by the most wonderful community.

The academy has grown enormously over the last 20 years, from 38 to 210. There are seven single year classes. There are five full-time members of the teaching staff and four part-time staff. Among those staff members are three previous Leading Wiltshire Teachers for both Literacy and Numeracy. Mrs Ruth Massie, our SENDCO has the following qualifications: B.Ed Honours in SEN, PGCE Speech and Language; CAES SPLD (dyslexia); National SENCo award.

Mrs Massie and Mrs Young both have specialist experience of working with children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Mrs Donna Young has the National Award for SENCo qualification.

We have very close links with the church and a strong Christian ethos. We worship in the church once a week and enjoy a termly Eucharist as well as celebrating special services such as Easter and Christmas.

The school holds the following Awards:



At Woodford Valley Academy teaching and learning is built upon a foundation that is inclusive, supportive, challenging and empowering. We promote high expectations, aspirations and an intense engagement in learning. This supports learners in establishing

the values, attitudes, skills and knowledge through which they will be able to achieve success, gain fulfilment in the future and become life-long learners.

Teachers are responsible and accountable for all the children in their classes and ensure high quality inclusive teaching, including effective differentiation, by planning lessons that ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving.

In compliance with the SEND Code of Practice, 2015 and SEND Reforms, there is a graduated approach to the identification, provision and support of all pupils which includes a period of close monitoring and targeted provision prior to the consideration being given to place a child onto the school Provision Map and/or SEND register. Should a pupil require provision that is additional and different they are placed on the Provision Map under one single category, namely SEN Support. Their provision will be identified and progress monitored via the Provision Map.

This policy sets out our commitment to raising the aspirations and expectations for all pupils with SEND.

## **SECTION 2 – AIM (THE LONGER VIEW)**

The overarching aim of this policy is to ensure that the needs of pupils with SEND, and the barriers to their learning, are accurately identified and effectively met so that they are able to achieve well and develop well, both as individuals and as members of the community, living life with dignity and independence.

### **Objectives:**

In order to meet the special educational needs of our children at Woodford Valley Primary Academy we:

- a) Assess pupils accurately, track their progress regularly and adjust provision in the light of ongoing monitoring in order to identify those children with SEN/D as soon as possible.
- b) Ensure that lessons are stimulating, enjoyable and well differentiated to meet the needs of all pupils, including those with SEND.
- c) Ensure teaching styles cater for different learning styles and learning is multi-sensory.
- d) Ensure additional support is well targeted, using a judicious blend of in-class support and withdrawal.
- e) Use appropriate resources to support learning, taking into account individual learning styles and ensuring that the development of pupils' literacy skills has the highest priority.
- f) Continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our provision for all pupils, including those with SEND, to ensure that we are providing equality of educational opportunity and value for money.
- g) Assess and keep records of the progress of children with SEN/D.
- h) Work with outside agencies who provide specialist support and teaching for children with SEN/D.
- i) Inform and involve the parents of children with SEN/D so that we can work together to support our children.
- j) Encourage active involvement by the children themselves in meeting their needs.
- k) Provide ongoing training for all staff working with children with SEN/D.

Through the application of this policy we wish to:

- a) Ensure compliance with National SEND Policy, most currently the DfE SEND Reforms, Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice 2015.
- b) Work closely with the LA in developing their Local Offer and complying with locally agreed policies and procedures.
- c) To operate a 'whole pupil, whole school' approach to the management and provision of support for SEND.
- d) Ensure all staff implements the school's SEND policy consistently – fully endorsing our belief that every teacher is a teacher of every child including those with SEND.
- e) Ensure that there is no discrimination or prejudice.
- f) Ensure all pupils have access to an appropriately differentiated curriculum.
- g) Recognise, value and celebrate pupils' achievements at all levels.
- h) Work in partnership with parents/carers in supporting their child's education.
- i) Guide and support all school staff, governors and parents on SEND issues.
- j) Meet the individual needs of all children irrespective of whether they have physical, sensory, emotional, social, mental health, specific or general learning needs.
- k) Provide appropriate resources and ensure their maximum and proper use.
- l) Involve the pupil in the process of identification, assessment and provision and to ensure that the pupil is aware that his/her wishes are taken into account as part of the process and of the shared responsibility in meeting his/her educational needs.
- m) To provide appropriately qualified Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENDCO's) who will oversee and work with the Inclusion Policy.
- n) To provide support and advice for all staff working with pupils who have SEND.
- o) Support pupils with SEND to develop their personality, talents and abilities to the full.
- p) Encourage all pupils, including those with SEND, to develop a respect for human rights, respect for parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.

### **SECTION THREE – IDENTIFYING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

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 children of his/her age.  
and/or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities/ provision that is normally available.  
(SEND Code of Practice 2015)

Special Educational Provision means:

“For children aged two or more, special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools, maintained nurseries, mainstream post-16 institutions or by relevant early year providers.”

(SEND Code of Practice : 0 - 25 years).

In addition, at Woodford Valley Academy we identify special educational needs within the context of the usual differentiated curriculum of the school. Pupils are identified as having SEND if they are not making progress within a curriculum that:

- a) sets suitable learning challenges
- b) responds to pupils' diverse learning needs
- c) aims to help pupils overcome potential barriers to learning

In accordance with the SEND Code of Practice 2015, four broad categories of need are identified:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs
- Social, Mental and Emotional Health.

Whilst it is clear that the purpose of identification is to work out what action the School needs to take, it is not our purpose to fit a pupil into a category and serve solely to identify the needs of each individual pupil by considering the whole child, not just his/her special educational needs.

The school will always take needs that are NOT SEND, but that may impact on progress and attainment, into account for example:

- Attendance and Punctuality
- Health and Welfare
- English as an additional language (EAL)
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium
- Being a Looked After Child (LAC)
- Being the child of a Serviceman/woman

The identification of behaviour as a need is not an acceptable way of describing SEND and any concerns relating to a child's behaviour will be described as an underlying response to a need which the School has recognised and identified clearly.

### **How do we identify SEND?**

Children are identified as having SEND in a variety of ways including the following:

- Liaison with previous settings attended by the child.
- Teacher assessments or tests show that the child is performing significantly below age-related expectations
- Concerns raised by class teachers, for example behaviour or self-esteem is affecting performance
- Concerns raised by parents and carers
- Liaison with external agencies, for example Educational Psychology, Speech & Language Therapy, Physiotherapy or Occupational Therapy
- Health diagnoses through the Paediatrician or Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

### **SECTION 4 – A Graduated Approach to Support SEND at Woodford Valley Primary Academy**

At Woodford Valley Primary Academy all teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all pupils in their class including where pupils access support from specialist staff and teaching assistants. High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have SEND. 'Quality First' teaching is a priority of the school. It is regularly and rigorously monitored and there is a focus on continual improvement of the teaching of all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEND most frequently encountered. Close liaison is maintained with all members of staff by the SENDCO to ensure that pupils are only identified as having SEND if they do not make adequate progress once they have had appropriate interventions/adjustments and good quality personalised teaching.

The needs of the majority of children will be met in the classroom. In all classes teachers are responsible for the teaching and learning of all pupils, including those with SEND. The teacher plans for the activities to be given to the pupils at the appropriate level of need for success and progress to be achieved.

If a child is below age related expectations or has made less than adequate progress then they may be assessed against the academies SEN Cause for Concern Form and if appropriate become 'SEN Support'. Parents will be informed and the child will be put on the school's SEND register and given additional targeted support or specialist resources.

Details of the provision on offer at Woodford Valley Primary Academy can be found in the School Offer in the SEND section of the School's Website and on the local authority website <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/local-offer>

### **Levels of Need**

Woodford Valley Primary Academy's Graduated Response to SEND is as follows:

#### **Monitor**

This refers to pupils who may, for some reason, have fallen behind and require some additional input to catch-up. A pupil in this category may have one or more of the following indicators:

- Be at risk of not meeting their targets
- Currently working at a standard below National expectations and their targets will not bring them above this level
- New entrants to the school whose needs are still being assessed
- Catch up pupils
- Currently have barriers to their learning e.g.
  - Their behaviour is disruptive
  - There are attendance/lateness issues
  - Concerns over their mental health
  - The family is currently experiencing challenges
  - They have EAL (English as an Additional Language)

Teachers will identify pupils who need to be monitored and identify and implement strategies to address their needs and enable them to catch up. This may involve conversations between the class teacher, SENDCO and parents which will include problem-solving, planning support and strategies for the individual pupils. Teachers will start a Cause for Concern form to allow them to monitor the pupil for a term with suggested strategies.

Pupils at this level of need DO NOT form part of the Academy's SEND Register and, in line with the Code of Practice, the School ensures that everything is done at an early a stage as possible to avoid the need for SEN Support. However, if after a period of time, an individual does not catch-up, it is at this point that consideration will be given as to whether they need SEN support.

### **SEND Support**

Pupils are placed on the Provision Map at this level after assessment and consultation between the SENDCO and Class Teacher when it is established that they have a significant learning difficulty and need provision that is **additional and different**.

At this point, parents/carers will be informed of the decision and the School will continue to work in partnership with them, listening their views and those of the pupil, and involving them proactively in planning and decision making. This will take the form of a termly 'Assess- Plan-Do -Review Cycle.'

### **My Support plan (Non Statutory)**

A child on a My Support Plan will be significantly behind their peers, despite additional support and intervention and may be considered for an EHCP application in the future.

### **Involving Specialists**

If a child continues to make little or no progress over a sustained period or where they continue to work at levels substantially below age expected despite SEN Support, the school will involve specialists including those from outside agencies. The views of parents/carers and the child are considered at all levels of intervention.

### **SEND Register**

Pupils with SEND who require on-going additional support are placed on the schools SEND Register and an Individual Progress Plan (IPP) is put in place where school staff, parents/carers and pupils set targets and review the impact of interventions and provision regularly. Children with a diagnosis, for example dyslexia, ADHD, ASD, would not necessarily be on the SEND Register if their needs can be met through Quality First Teaching (QFT).

Wobble cushions, slopes, visual timetables, word banks etc. form part of our QFT. If a pupil is receiving short term support from outside agencies such as SALT they do not need to be placed on the SEND Register. Likewise, pupils receiving short boosters to support learning are not classified as SEND and would not be placed on the schools SEND Register.

## **The Graduated Approach**

In accordance with the New SEND Code of Practice, Woodford Valley Primary Academy uses the 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' approach as explained below:

### **Assess**

- Teacher's high quality, accurate formative assessment and experience of child
- Pupil progress, attainment and behaviour
- Development & attainment in comparison to peers
- Views and experiences of parents
- The child's own views

- If relevant, assessments, views of and advice from external services.

## **Plan**

A plan of support will be developed by the class teacher and put in place and recorded on the school provision map. Parents and children will be involved in supporting the target setting. It will include:

- The outcomes agreed for the next half term
- The support and interventions to be put in place
- The expected impact on progress, development or behaviour
- A clear date for review

## **Do**

- The class teacher remains responsible for working with the child on a daily basis and works closely with TAs or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of the interventions.
- The SENDCOs support the class teacher in the further assessment of the child's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem-solving and advising on the effective implementation of support.

## **Review**

- Teachers review the impact of interventions 3 x yearly. Progress is discussed with parents at parent consultations twice a year and additional meetings are arranged between the class teacher and parents/carers when needed. If at the review stage, it is decided more expert help is required, then with parent/carer's consent school will make a referral to the appropriate external agency such as the Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapy service or the Wiltshire SEND support service.
- A new the plan will then be drawn up and a record of the ongoing support will be added to the Provision Map.

## **My Support Plan**

Following a review of the strategies at the initial SEND support level it may be decided to put a child on a My Support Plan. This is used when a child has special educational needs and/or a disability and requires support in the long term.

The purpose of the My Support Plan is to understand a child's need, how they need to be supported and what they hope to do/achieve.

The 'My Support Plans' will be generated in full consultation with the parents, child, class teacher and the SENCo. Outside agencies, who may already be involved with the pupil, will also be consulted.

Together, a 'My Support Plan' will be generated with the child at its centre. Long term goals will be considered and then the short term goals that will be needed to fulfil these longer term goals.

The 'My Support Plans' will provide for:-

- the child's views and opinions and what is important to them
- the views of their parents/carers
- what makes the child a unique individual
- what is important for the child (e.g. health or communication needs) and how best to support the child
- how the child learns
- what is and isn't working for the child and their family
- who is important to the child



- hopes and dreams for the future including provision for transition
- shared action plan with short term targets included
- the support provided will be reviewed against targets.

With the parent/carer's consent the My Support Plan will be registered with Wiltshire Council so that any further help in the form of external agencies can be accessed.

The 'My Support Plans' will be jointly reviewed by school professionals and parents / carers three times a year.

If the child's needs involve safeguarding issues, then it may be more appropriate to complete an Early Help CAF or if concerns are serious then concerns must be reported directly to the MultiAgency Safeguarding Hub. Please see the Safeguarding Policy for further guidance.

### **Statutory My Plan (Education, Health and Care Plan)**

Pupils who need more specialist provision and whose needs cannot be wholly met at SEN Support level will be the subject of Statutory Assessment. This is completed by the SENDCO who obtains the views and information about the child from all other professionals involved in their education, health and/or care. Parents/Carers views and those of the child are obtained and will be considered in order for a recommendation for an EHCP to be made to the Local Authority. The LA then consider the application and issue an EHCP as appropriate.

There is a statutory requirement to review an EHCP annually. This review meeting is held at the school with parent, child and all professionals involved invited to attend. In addition, pupils with an EHCP are subject to the Assess-Plan-Do-Review Cycle.

Where a child has a My Plan, the school will carry out an annual review. The teacher and SENDCo's meet with the parent/carer and the child contributes either in person or their views are represented by adults who know them well. Where appropriate the SEND lead worker, outside agencies, may be invited to attend. The My Plan will ensure a collaborative, joined up approach to support the child. Parents/carers of children with a Statutory EHC My Plan have the right to request a personal budget. If this is requested, the SEND lead worker and the LA will provide support on this.

### **Local Offer**

Wiltshire LA has compiled a local offer which details all the services and support available for children and young people with SEND.

The link for this is: <https://localoffer.wiltshire.gov.uk/>

### **SEND Information Report**

Woodford Valley Primary Academy's SEND Information Report details the support and provision that we are able to offer children and young people with SEND. This is available on our school website.

### **Links and Use of outside agencies**

Close links are maintained with the LA support services in order to ensure that the school makes appropriate provision for children with special educational needs. Where it is necessary to contact outside agencies, the SENDCo will usually make the necessary arrangements and discuss with parents/carers accordingly. These agencies normally include the Local Education Team including the Educational Psychologist, Learning Support Team, Early Years Inclusion Service, Physical and Sensory Impairment Support Service team, Speech Therapist, Behaviour Support Team, Health and LA personnel. Any or all of these agencies may be involved.

### **The SENDCOs are responsible for:**

- a) Assessing specific needs of students with SEND, including application for Statutory assessment.
- b) Liaising with other schools to aid transition
- c) Ensuring all relevant information is forwarded on to new school.
- d) Day-to-day operation of the school's SEND Policy
- e) Liaising and advising class teachers and support staff.
- f) Maintaining the SEN Record of Need and the records of all pupils with SEND.
- g) Liaising with parents/carers of pupils with SEND.
- h) Liaising with external services including the Educational Psychology Service, Social Care, Early Support etc
- i) Planning and holding review meetings for pupils with SEND including those with an EHCP.
- j) Supporting the Year 6 teacher and Head teacher to ensure access arrangements are in place eg additional time for KS2 SATs.

### **SECTION 5 - CRITERIA FOR EXITING THE SEND RECORD OF NEED**

The SENDCOs have responsibility for the removal of a pupil from support on the SEND Register at Woodford Valley Primary Academy. The decision will be dependent upon appropriate progress being made towards set targets and in conjunction with appropriate teaching staff/outside agencies and parents.

### **SECTION 6 – SUPPORTING PUPILS AND FAMILIES**

- Families of pupils with SEN are guided towards the Wiltshire Local Offer <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/local-offer>
- Parents / carers are also guided towards SENDIASS, a Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Information Advice & Support Service.
- Woodford Valley Primary Academy website includes the SEND Policy and Annual SEND Information Report.
- Admission arrangements can be found on the school website.
- The school's policy on managing the medical conditions of pupils can be found on the school website.
- Transition meetings between class teachers to discuss the needs of individual pupils with SEND take place in July and will include the passing on of all records including all Provision Maps.
- We ensure that Y6 pupils with specific SEND can access KS2 SATS. The Year 6 teacher, in liaison with the Head teacher and SENDCOs, ensures access arrangements have been made in a timely manner.

### **SECTION 7 – Supporting pupils at Woodford Valley Primary Academy with medical conditions**

- The school recognises that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they can have full access to education, including educational visits and physical education. Some children with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case, the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Some pupils may also have SEND and may have an EHCP which brings together health and social care needs, as well as special educational provision and the Code of Practice (2015) is followed.
- The school has members of staff trained in Paediatric and General First Aid and, where appropriate, staff are trained in managing the medication and other treatments of pupils with medical conditions. See the school policy for supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions for more detailed information including the name of the member of staff who leads on this aspect of care.
- The school follows all guidance from the DfE including Covid-19 Procedures

## **SECTION 8 – MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF SEND**

Please refer to information given in Section 4 of this policy. The quality of provision offered to all pupils with SEND is continuously monitored through ongoing daily, weekly, termly and annual review, on an individual and cumulative basis in conjunction with the Governors, Head teacher, SLT, teaching staff and parents in line with an active process of continual review and improvement of whole school practice.

## **SECTION 9 – TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

- All professional development needs are identified through the school's appraisal system, self-evaluation and quality assurance processes and feed into the School Development Plan.
- The Head teacher oversees the professional development of all teaching staff and teaching assistants. Training occurs during whole school training days, staff meetings and by attending courses. Colleagues attending courses are expected to disseminate and share relevant knowledge with other staff within the school.
- The SENDCOs attend continuing professional development training courses in order to keep up to date with local and national developments in SEND.
- Support Staff are encouraged to take an active part in all school functions/training.

## **SECTION 10 – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Role of the SEND governor/Governing Body**

The SEND Governor is Mrs R Gordon:

The Governing body has regard to the SEN code of Practice (2015) when carrying out duties towards all pupils with SEND consequently it is their responsibility to:

- Ensure the necessary provision is made for pupils with SEND.
- Determine the school's general policy and approach to pupils with SEN in cooperation with the Head teacher and SENDCOs.
- Ensure that the teachers are aware of the importance of identifying and providing for those pupils with SEND.
- Ensure that the policy and information about identification, assessment, provision, monitoring and record keeping and use of outside agencies and services are available for parents.

- Ensure that the school's progress in implementing the policy and its impact on pupils are regularly reported to the Governing Body.
- Ensure that parents are notified of a decision by the school to make SEND provision for their child.
- Ensure that pupils with SEND are included as far as possible into the activities of the school.
- Consult with the LA and the Governing bodies of other schools, when appropriate, in the interests of coordinated SEND provision in the area.

### **Role of the Teaching Assistants**

Teaching Assistants and Higher Level Teaching Assistants are recruited to work within the classroom and/or with targeted groups or individuals outside the classroom as directed by the Senior Leaders and class teachers. The learning of **all pupils** remain the responsibility of the class teacher at all times.

Teaching Assistants are line managed by members of the SLT.

### **SECTION 11 – STORING AND MANAGING INFORMATION**

- The school complies with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – May 2018.
- The school uses the DfE's Data Protection: a toolkit for schools (April 2018) as guidance.
- All staff have received GDPR training and are aware of confidentiality requirements with regard information about pupils and families.
- The SENDCOs understand that elements of special educational needs data are sensitive and it is the school's policy to treat it with the same 'high status' as 'Special Category Personal data' set out in law. (See the school's GDPR Policy and Privacy Notices.)
- Explicit consent is always sought from parents/carers for the following:  
Involvement of outside professionals to observe/assess or work with their child eg Educational Psychologist; Speech & Language Therapist; SEND Specialists and for 1:1 counselling.
- The SENDCOs ensure that all sensitive personal information, about individual pupils and/or their families, eg their SEND file, is stored securely and is not freely accessible.
- The SENDCOs ensure that any documents with sensitive personal information about individual pupils and their families that need to be shared with other professionals outside the school are sent through encrypted, secure e mails.
- When a pupil with SEND moves to another school, their SEND files are, wherever possible, delivered to the receiving school by hand and a signed file transfer receipt is required from the school. If this is not possible, the files are sent by recorded delivery post.
- The SENDCO ensures that no sensitive, personal data about individual pupils with SEND is visible anywhere in the school including , offices; staffroom; classrooms, unless it is required for Safeguarding eg medical needs such as allergies, in which case, explicit consent is gained.

### **SECTION 12 – REVIEWING THE SEN POLICY**

The Policy will be reviewed annually to comply with requirements for SEND.

## **SECTION 13 – ACCESSIBILITY**

Please refer to the Accessibility Plan.

## **SECTION 14 – DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS**

The school's standard complaints system applies. More information can be found on the school website.

## **SECTION 15 – BULLYING**

Please refer to the school's Behaviour Policy and Anti- Bullying policy which are available on the school website.

## **SECTION 16 – SAFEGUARDING**

### **Safeguarding**

Children with Special Educational Needs and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges.

All staff at Woodford Valley Primary Academy are aware of these challenges. Further details can be found in the school's Safeguarding Policy which can be viewed on the academy website.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs D Young**

**Designated Teacher for Looked After Children: Mrs D Young**

**Designated Member of Staff responsible for PPG/LAC Funding: Mrs D Young**

**Designated Member of Staff responsible for managing the Academy's responsibility for meeting the medical needs of pupils: Mrs D Young**

**Designated SEND Governor: Mrs R Gordon**