

Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

1. Introduction

Discovery College recognises its legal duty to provide equal opportunities for all students, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment that enables all students to achieve their full potential.

This SEND policy outlines our approach to identifying, assessing, and meeting the needs of students with SEND.

For students with Education Health Care Plans we will use these to determine whether an applicant needs can be met and ensure the correct level of support is arranged for those joining the college.

2. Aims and Objectives

Our main objectives are:

- To provide a learning environment that is inclusive, supportive, and free from discrimination.
- To identify and assess the needs of students with SEND promptly through our application and interview process.
- To provide appropriate support and resources to enable SEND students to access and succeed in our programs.
- To involve parents, carers, and students in the decision-making process and collaborate with external agencies where necessary.
- To provide a personalised transition programme to support a successful time at the college.

3. Definition of SEND

Special Educational Needs (SEN) are defined as a learning difficulty or disability that makes it harder for a student to learn or access education compared to other students of the same age. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, physical, sensory, cognitive, or emotional impairments.

4. Identification and Assessment

Discovery College is committed to the early identification of students with SEND. We will use a range of assessment tools and strategies, including input from teachers, parents, carers, and external professionals, to identify and assess students' needs.

5. Support and Provision

We will provide appropriate support and reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of students with SEND. This may include:

- Students with SEN are integrated within the courses across the college with consideration given to ensure they can access both the classroom and practical based learning.
- Adaptations to teaching materials, methods, and resources.
- Access to assistive technologies or devices.
- Additional teaching or support staff.
- Individualised support plans (ISPs) or other relevant support plans.
- Accessibility and adjustments to the physical environment, where necessary.
- Support will be delivered through collaboration between teachers, parents, carers, and external agencies as required. Regular reviews of support plans will be conducted to monitor progress and make necessary adjustments.
- EHCPs will be reviewed as required by the relevant LA

6. Involvement of Parents and Carers

Discovery College values the input of parents and carers in the education of students with SEND. We will actively involve them in the decision-making process, ensuring they are well-informed and have opportunities to share their concerns and aspirations for their children.

This is achieved by:

- Providing the option for them to attend transition visits , open events and the interview.
- TAM and or Individual Support Planning meetings are offered

- A 6 week EHCP review meeting is held for students who have transitioned to us from another education provider.
- Invited to attend Progress Review Meeting twice a year.
- Maintaining regular contact with updates regarding progress, concerns and achievements.
- Support with Progression Planning
- Throughout their time at Discovery College students with SEN to studying their main qualification and ME as required will also participate in the following:
 - Work Experience
 - IAG programme
 - Monthly Tutorials focused on personal development and career.
 - Learning visits
 - Transition visits as required
 - Discovery College students have the opportunity to join the mentoring programme and meet regularly with a professional from their chosen career pathway. There is also the opportunity to become a Student Ambassador and support the college at various events.

7. Training and Development

Our staff will receive training and ongoing professional development to support the inclusion of students with SEND effectively. This includes awareness of the Equality Act 2010, strategies for differentiation, and methods for supporting students with various needs.

Staff training needs are identified at the recruitment stage and during appraisals.

All support staff are expected to hold or be working towards a level 2 qualification in Learning Difficulties and Disabilities.

A record of our staff training is held in our SCR and college COD database.

8. Accessibility

We are committed to ensuring our resources, and communication are accessible to all students, including those with SEND. We will make reasonable adjustments to our resources and provide accessible formats for learning materials as needed.

9. Review and Monitoring

This SEND policy will be reviewed annually, or as needed, to ensure it remains up to date and effective. Monitoring of its implementation will be conducted to assess its impact on student outcomes.

10. Complaints

Any complaint received involving a student with SEN will be dealt with following our complaints policy which is available on request.

11. Conclusion

Discovery College is committed to providing a supportive and inclusive learning environment where all students can thrive. We will work diligently to meet the individual needs of students with SEND, involving parents, carers, and external agencies where necessary.

SENCO Contact Details

Aden Pike

aden.pike@discoverycollege.prg.uk

01752 761003

Discovery College, YMCA Plymouth

Honicknowle Lane

Plymouth PL5 3NG

Policy Owner: Joe Stephenson - Head of College

Date: 02/04/2025

Review date: 02/04/2026