



## Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

**Status**

Current Policy

**Review Cycle**

Annually

**Next Review**

December 2026

**Lead Staff**

Lucy Taylor

**Chair of Governing Body**

Alex Krutnik

**Headteacher**

Jane Hatwell

## Vision and Values

Our school vision is to provide an *outstanding, nurturing, learning environment*, where all our pupils can achieve their full potential and progress to lead happy and fulfilling lives.

Our mission is to provide each and every pupil with the best possible education, delivered in an environment that is supportive, caring and safe.

### *“Getting it right for every pupil”*

At Stone Bay we focus on *Evolving Excellence* in all that we do, working towards making our school the best it can be for pupils, staff and families. We are creating lasting *Trust* with all our stakeholders, *Empowering* each other to learn and grow. By adhering to policies and clear processes we ensure *Fairness* and transparency in our decision making and actions, whilst ensuring we are *Collaborating* with others and always looking for ways to help each other to deliver excellence for our pupils.

## Rights Respecting Schools

The Unicef UK Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA) is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. The RRSA seeks to put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school’s ethos and culture to improve well-being and develop every child’s talents and abilities to their full potential. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children’s rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

Stone Bay has been awarded the Silver Award by UNICEF. This is awarded to UK schools that show good progress towards embedding children’s rights in the school’s policy, practice and ethos, as outlined in the RRSA Strands and Outcomes

## Staff wellbeing

The Leadership Team and the Governing Board of Stone Bay School are committed to promoting positive mental, physical and emotional wellbeing and to providing suitable support for all staff. Taking action to prevent ill health and promote good health makes good educational and business sense, as sickness absence carries high costs both in monetary terms and in terms of the impact upon performance, teaching and learning, morale and productivity, which may disrupt or compromise pupil progress.

All members of staff are entitled to be treated fairly and professionally at all times. The Governing Board of Stone Bay School takes very seriously its duty of care as an employer to all members of staff and a number of policies and procedures have been made in relation to this duty.

## Introduction

This policy is written in line with the requirements of:-

Children and Families Act 2014

SEN Code of Practice 2015

SI 2014 1530 Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014

Part 3 Duties on Schools – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators

Schedule 1 regulation 51– Information to be included in the SEN information report

Schedule 2 regulation 53 – Information to be published by a local authority in its local offer

Equality Act 2010

Schools Admissions Code, DfE 1 Feb 2012

SI 2012 1124 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012

SI 2013 758 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

The school's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy underpins the core values and practice at Stone Bay School and all other policies are written with these in mind.

## Definition of SEND

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.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difference if he or she:

- (a) Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age;  
or
- (b) 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. *SEN Code of Practice (2015, p 15)*

## Definition of Disability

Many children and young people who have SEND may also have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 – that is '...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'. This definition provides a relatively low threshold and includes more children than many realise: 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial' *SEN Code of Practice (2015, p16)*

## Provision

Stone Bay School provides both day and residential provision for children and young people who have been diagnosed with Autism, comorbid Speech, Language and communication needs and moderate to severe learning differences. All pupils will have an EHC Plan.

Prospective pupils should be between 4 and 19 years of age, of either sex (although gender may limit availability of suitable residential accommodation).

Prospective pupils have a diagnosed Autistic and experience one or more of the following differences:

- Communication Difference
- Social Skill differences
- Issues with Self-Control, Stress and Environments
- Moderate to Severe Learning Differences
- Global Developmental Delay.

Potential pupils are referred through the Local Authority, parents or those with parental rights will be encouraged to visit the school ensuring everyone knows what exactly the school can offer. To ensure we have as full a comprehensive picture of the pupil we will visit their current school and home as we gather information we require to ensure all additional needs can be met.

When an offer has been made teachers, therapists and residential staff will work collaboratively with, parents, social care professionals, previous school placement and clinical colleagues to baseline assess the pupil. This helps to ensure we minimise the potential negative impact of transition and have a good understanding of the additional needs of the pupil.

Pupils are admitted throughout the year according to a suitable class/peer group having space available.

At Stone Bay School we work closely with the educational settings used by the pupils before they transfer to us in order to seek the information that will make the transfer as seamless as possible. We will offer taster sessions and a bespoke transition plan to suit the individual pupils' needs.

We also contribute information to a pupils' onward destination by providing information to the next setting. In 6<sup>th</sup> Form we will assist parents and students with visits to potential onward destinations and contribute to pathway planning.

## Aims

- To offer all pupils an accessible broad and balanced, personalised curriculum that offers appropriate challenges and which will promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, social,

emotional and physical development of pupils at the school. A curriculum which prepares all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of their adult life.

- To ensure the curriculum will be relevant, accessible, challenging and will meet the individual and specific needs of all pupils.
- To ensure all pupils have equality of access to all aspects of the curriculum.
- Curriculum provision will be examined to ensure content; materials and delivery support the principles of equality, opportunity, freedom from discrimination on the grounds of disability, race and gender.
- To encourage individual choice regardless of difference, race or gender. The philosophy of individual choice is a fundamental objective, reflected in our working practices.
- To ensure pupils have access to structured support, learning and challenge designed to develop their communication and social skills ensuring personal development commensurate with their individual abilities and needs.
- To create a school community committed to fostering and valuing pupils as individuals.
- To provide a secure yet challenging and happy environment.
- To work in partnership with parents, families, carers and professional colleagues.

## Policy

- The aims of the school apply to all pupils.
- The principle of entitlement means that all pupils have a right of access to a curriculum that is appropriate to their needs.
- The Headteacher has overall responsibility for coordinating educational provision for our pupils though this is delegated to the Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteachers
- Pupils at Stone Bay are admitted following a detailed admissions procedure that will ensure the individual needs of the pupil can be met.
- Stone Bay is a day and residential special school for pupils who have a diagnosis of Autism, with communication and Language differences, severe learning differences and as a result of this pupils can become dysregulated.
- Pupils are offered a broad-based curriculum founded on the principles and guidance of the four key areas of the Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) and follow programmes of study that are accessible and challenging though not age specific.
- The curriculum pathways for pupils between 16-19 years aim to equip young people for independent life according to individual abilities and needs. Much of this work is designed to assist pupils in making an effective transition between school and their role as adults in a wider community.
- Each pupil will have Personalised Learning Intentions which focus on the six curriculum areas and the long-term outcomes agreed in the EHCP.
- We recognise the need for support and training for all staff.
- We expect that all staff will embrace and support the school aim of providing a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum and share a common interest in raising the standards of the pupils they teach.
- All staff share responsibility for identifying and assessing individual pupils' needs and for being involved in planning and putting into practice schemes of work which will meet the full range of pupils' abilities and needs.

- The Class Teacher has responsibility for identifying and assessing next steps and devising suitable teaching programmes supported by other colleagues as appropriate.
- Higher Learning Teaching Assistants and Teaching Assistants work under the direction of the Class Teacher.
- Teachers, through liaison with parents and other professionals, are responsible for identifying and setting targets linked to the pupils' personal development.
- Progress is shared with parents on a regular basis at least 3x per year including, review of Personalised Learning Intentions, the Annual Review, End of Year Report and LAC, Chin and ChiC meetings).

The Governing Body has responsibility to publish information about and report on the school policy on Special Educational Needs. The Governing Body's report must include information on:

- The success of the SEN policy
- Significant changes in the policy
- Any consultation with the Local Authority
- How resources have been allocated to and amongst children over the year with particular regard to vulnerable groups

The success of the policy should be demonstrated by the effectiveness of the school in terms of:

- Pupil Engagement
- Attendance
- Development of expressive and receptive communication
- Development of self- management skills leading to greater levels of self-control
- Development of personal & social skills
- Appropriateness of social interactions and community access
- Assessment for and of learning
- Provision
- Monitoring and record keeping
- Successful engagement with outside support services and agencies
- Successful outcomes for all pupils ultimately leading to positive and appropriate Pupil Destinations.

## Training

All staff at Stone Bay school receive a comprehensive induction training package covering key areas such as safeguarding and child protection, moving and handling, positive behaviour support, medical awareness, health and safety and communication skills including Makaton.

Mandatory training includes:

- Safeguarding
- PROACT SCIP UKr
- Health and Safety
- Manual Handling
- Autism Awareness

We have regular whole school and small group staff training sessions running throughout the school year which are mapped out on our internal school planner. These are delivered by both internal and external providers.

- Other training includes;
- Communication strategies - (PECS, Context Specific Communication Boards)
- Makaton Sign Language
- Intensive Interaction
- Epilepsy Awareness
- First Aid
- Specialist Strategies inc - Indentiplay, Fun with Food
- Administration of Medication

Some staff have received specific training on mental health and well-being, Autism (including PECS, TEACCH), Attention Autism, attachment and anxiety.

## Assessment and Provision.

In light of the impact of Covid19, the 2020/21 academic year was a transitory year (subject to the necessary legislation being made) for the assessment of pupils working below the standard of national curriculum assessments, and not engaged in subject-specific study.

This allowed schools time to prepare for, and start embedding, the [engagement model](#) which became statutory from September 2021.

Stone Bay started using the Engagement Model from September 2021

The engagement model is the assessment (replacing P scales 1 to 4) for pupils working below the standard of national curriculum assessments and not engaged in subject-specific study. Teachers use the engagement model to assess pupils working below the standard of the national curriculum assessments and not engaged in subject-specific study at key stage 1 and key stage 2.

The engagement model has 5 areas of engagement:

Exploration

Realisation

Anticipation

Persistence

Initiation

These areas allow teachers to assess pupils' engagement in developing new skills, knowledge and concepts in the school's curriculum by demonstrating how pupils are achieving specific outcomes. They represent what is necessary for pupils to fully engage in their learning and reach their full potential.

Stone Bay School uses a purpose built, internal assessment system to measure pupils progress against all curriculum areas, using teachers professional judgements and the assessment tool Evidence Me to Record observational progress for all pupils.

Stone Bay also monitors the progress of all Pupils through Personalised Learning Intentions, towards EHCP Outcomes, for pupils in KS3 and above Stone Bay also measures progress in Internal and external Accreditation Programmes, such as AQA and Trinity Arts Awards.

All pupil progress is carefully monitored with updates three times a year, progress and levels are discussed during parent meetings and EHCP Review meetings.

Pupils within the school are grouped on the basis of key stage and need. There is generally a maximum of 8 pupils to each class, although in some groups there may be less, depending on the intake within that year group.

There are a number of activities within the school where pupils integrate with other classes aside from their class/flat group. Activities may include the use of the schools own Forest school, Animal and Horticulture area, community facilities such as local colleges, libraries and shops where appropriate and safe to do so.

Some of our KS4 and 5 pupils may be able to access off-site work experience placements.

### **Statutory assessment arrangements for pupils working below the standard of national curriculum assessments**

At Stone Bay School all our pupils will be working significantly below the end of Key Stage expectations and Teachers will use the Pre-key stage 1 & 2 standards to make statutory teacher assessment judgements at the end of key stage for pupils who are working below the national curriculum teacher assessment frameworks, and engaged in subject-specific study.

## Partnership Working

We work closely with a range of partners to ensure we are able to meet the needs of our pupils, these include;

- Disabled Children's Services
- Communication and Assistive Technology Team
- Membership of professional networks, including
  - PROACT SCIP,
  - The Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists (RCSLT)
  
- Kent Special Educational Needs Trust (Ksent)
- Collaborative Learning Alliance of Special School (CLASS)
- Cooperative Schools Network (CSNET)
- Autism Education Trust (AET)
- Kent Occupational Therapy - Occupational Therapy and Music Therapy
- Real Psychology - Educational Psychologist
- Play Therapy

## Parents

The school encourages and values the involvement of parents. We recognise the additional difficulties parents may have in direct contact with the school owing to the location of the school in relation to their homes. However, parents are kept informed through regular contact with residential key workers and teachers, through the use of telephone conversations, Class DoJo, individual letters and weekly parents newsletters.

Information Advice and Support Kent (IASK) provides a free and confidential, information, advice and support service, for parents of a disabled child or child with special educational needs and to children and young people up to age 25 who have a special educational need.

Trained staff can provide impartial legally based information and support on educational matters relating to special educational needs and disabilities, including health and social care. The aim is to empower parents, children and young people to fully participate in discussions and make informed choices and decisions. Also, to feel confident to express their views and wishes about education and future aspirations.

They can be contacted on

**HELPLINE:** 03000 41 3000

**Office:** 03000 412412

**E-mail:** [iask@kent.gov.uk](mailto:iask@kent.gov.uk)

[www.kent.gov.uk/iask](http://www.kent.gov.uk/iask)

The local authority's local offer [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)  
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs>

## Complaints

The normal arrangements for the treatment of complaints at Stone Bay School are used for complaints about provision made for special educational needs. We encourage parents to initially discuss any concerns with the class teacher, Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher to resolve the issue before making the complaint formal to the Chair of the governing body.

If the complaint is not resolved after it has been considered by the governing body, then a disagreement resolution service or mediation service can be contracted. If it remains unresolved after this, the complainant can appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), if the case refers to disability discrimination, or to the Secretary of State for all other cases.

There are some circumstances, usually for children who have an EHCP, where there is a statutory right for parents to appeal against a decision of the Local Authority. Complaints which fall within this category cannot be investigated by the school.