



Thistley Hough Academy  
SEND Information Report  
2025/2026



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## 1. Introduction

Welcome to our SEND Information Report 2025/2026, which forms part of the Stoke On Trent Local Offer for learners with Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice, January 2015 (Chapter 6, section 6.79). This report is also fully compliant with Regulation 51 and Schedule 1 of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014. The information published will be updated annually.

The Information Report also applies to all pupils who are looked after by the local authority and have SEND.

This document has been designed to advise families with children who present with Special Educational Needs, Disabilities and or are vulnerable, on the provision available at Thistley Hough Academy. It should guide families when deciding if Thistley Hough Academy is the right educational setting for their child.

When we talk about “provision”, we mean what we provide in order to meet the needs of a pupil and help them to make progress at school which is appropriate to their age.

## 2. What is SEND ?

At different times in their school career, a child or young person may have a special educational need. The May 2015 Code of Practice defines Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) as:

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 them. A child or young person of compulsory school age has a learning difficulty or disability if they:

(a) have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age; or

(b) have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

If a child or young person is identified as having SEND, Thistley Hough Academy will make provision which is “additional to” or “different from” that provided for non-SEND students (the ordinarily available provision adapted through the curriculum through Quality First Teaching), which is intended to overcome any barriers to their learning.

It is important to note that not every pupil making slower progress has SEND. Some pupils may make slower progress for a reason unrelated to SEND, such as a gap in their learning. Additionally, children and young people must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught. However, some students for whom English is an additional language may also be identified as SEN if their needs meet the criteria above.



### 3. What is Disability ?

The Equality Act, 2010, gives the following definition of disability:

“A person has a disability for the purposes of this Act if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and adverse long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.”

This definition of disability includes children and young people with long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer. Children and young people with such conditions do not necessarily have SEND, but there is a significant overlap between disability and SEN. A child or young person may therefore be covered by both SEN and disability legislation.

Our facilities for helping disabled students to access the school are described fully in the school's Accessibility Plan [Accessibility-Plan-2024-2027.pdf](#).

If parent carers feel there is a need to highlight an on going health or medical need Thistley Hough Academy will always consider appropriate arrangements to support and include these needs and where necessary a medical health care plan will be devised and co-ordinated by Chloe Hobson.

### 4. Accessibility

Our school is a safe and accessible building, and we do our best to make it welcoming to the whole community. All safeguarding procedures and risk assessments are in place and adhered to by all staff. We have a range of different facilities to help SEND students throughout our school including a lift to access all areas, disabled toilets, a disabled shower/changing facility and appropriate corridors.

### 5. What Types of SEND are provided for at Thistley Hough Academy?

There are four broad areas of need, although the Trust and Thistley Hough Academy recognise that a student's needs may fall into one or more categories. Thistley Hough Academy provides provision for all areas of need in line with the appropriate provision pupils require.

**Communication and Interaction (C&I):** Children and Young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to (expressive), understanding what is being said to them (receptive/cognition). They may not understand or use social rules of communication. Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) including Autism or Aspergers can have more prevalent difficulties with social interaction due to deficits in their understanding and connections between language, communication and imagination, which then impacts on how they relate to others.



**Cognition and Learning (C&L):** A broad ranging group of learning difficulties including Dyslexia and Dyspraxia as Specific Learning Difficulties (SPLD), Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD), Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) where children and young people will need support in the curriculum and may have associated mobility and communication difficulties, to those with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) where children and young people have severe and complex learning difficulties with physical disability and/or sensory impairment.

**Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH):** Children and Young people diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Attachment Disorder may need additional support in the curriculum. Those with Mental Health Difficulties such as anxiety, depression, self-harming, substance abuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained may also need additional or different support to access education.

**Sensory and or Physical Needs (SI/PD):** Children and Young people with Hearing (HI) or Visual (VI) Impairment, or Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI) may need additional specialist support or equipment to access the curriculum, or rehabilitation support. Some with physical disability (PD) may need additional and ongoing support to enable them to access opportunities available to their peers. SEND provision may be required as they have a disability that prevents or hinders them from making full use of educational facilities generally provided.

## 6. iCREATE - Creative Education Trust approach to SEND

Creative Education Trust have a robust SEND framework iCREATE, which provides a comprehensive outline of how Thistley Hough Academy identifies, assesses and provides for the full range of SEND needs. The framework also outlines the Ordinarily Available Provision for all pupils, as we understand that support for SEND starts with effective Quality First Teaching for all. Additionally, the framework provides an outline of how Thistley Hough Academy supports a graduated response for all pupils in line with Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years.

This detailed framework can be found here : ([I Create Framework](#)).



iCREATE uses a focus on the following 7 areas :

<b>i</b>	<b><i>Inclusion</i></b>
<b>C</b>	<b><i>Creativity</i></b>
<b>R</b>	<b><i>Respect</i></b>
<b>E</b>	<b><i>Excellence</i></b>
<b>A</b>	<b><i>Ambition</i></b>
<b>T</b>	<b><i>Therapeutic Awareness</i></b>
<b>E</b>	<b><i>Emotionally Literate</i></b>

At **Thistley Hough** Academy you will see each element of iCREATE through the following strategies:

### **Inclusion**

A student-centred approach ensures students are flexibility grouped to meet their needs. The inclusion of Strive groups allow all students to access the same ambitious curriculum regardless of SEND status.

Small group environments, thoughtful staffing and professional development allows students to gain every opportunity to be successful.

Interventions carefully planned and delivered to support students in successfully accessing the curriculum without becoming an additional barrier.

The same opportunities for all students such as access to school trips, sports clubs, CCF and other extracurricular opportunities. Students with SEND are part of the student council.

### **Creativity**

All students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, with a range of enrichment opportunities accessible for all, through our THA charter delivered during our Personal Development Days throughout the academic year.

We have a well-established extra-curricular programme that allows all students to access to additional opportunities outside of the taught curriculum, exposing them to cultural context of Stoke-on-Trent and beyond, including international residential such as the ski trip. Links are made with businesses and creative sectors to give students opportunities within the area.

### **Respect**

All students with SEND are treated fairly and respectfully by all, where differences are celebrated. All staff and students uphold our Academy virtues, that have been relaunched following student voice, Respect, Resilience and Responsibility.

The Academy does not tolerate discrimination or bullying, and incidents are dealt with quickly and effectively.

Students have regular reminders during Tutor Time, assemblies and the Ambition Curriculum.

Students with SEND demonstrate positive behaviours in and out of the classroom and are recognised for their achievements through the Academy rewards programme.

### **Excellence**

The 4 key T&L principles for students with SEND underpin all professional development for student-facing staff. Behaviour, curriculum and teaching and learning development sessions all link to at least one of the four key principles.

Ensuring Quality First Teaching is the highest priority to support students with SEND. Students are given every opportunity to succeed to effectively prepare them for their next steps beyond THA. They are exposed to a variety of providers and work environments to allow them to make informed choices about their next steps.

### **Ambition**

There is no limitation to the curriculum for any student with SEND throughout Key Stage 3 and 4. Students with SEND all receive at least two 1:1 specialist careers appointment from Year 9 onwards, with advisors to ensure they are supported with next steps.

All students experience a range of experiences beyond the taught curriculum through our PD Charter, including visits to workplaces, University and Post 16 providers.

Students are given every opportunity to succeed to effectively prepare them for their next steps beyond THA. They are exposed to a variety of providers and work environments to allow them to make informed choices about their next steps.

### **Therapeutic Awareness**

Distractors are removed from the learning environment, where possible and necessary.

Professional development delivered to staff on removing emotion and providing opportunities for self-regulation and de-escalation.

Success Room - An additional self-regulation provision for students with SEND to manage presenting behaviours.

All staff receive regular training through the Therapeutic Thinking model and has been incorporated into INSET days and CPD.

ACEs training delivered to all staff during September INSET, with practical application to our pastoral and behaviour systems.

Reasonable adjustments made and carefully tracked to ensure students can access a fair and equitable curriculum. There is equity in education that allows students, regardless of SEND, demographic or background to be treated fairly, providing them with reasonable adjustments to ensure they develop positive character traits and skills.

### **Emotionally Literate**

Staff role model positive behaviours expected by staff. Middle and senior leaders in receipt of training to live coach and help staff develop not only their teaching practice but their interaction with students.

Students receive regular student training assemblies to help them to understand and practise appropriate classroom and social behaviours.

Students are given the opportunity to develop social and emotional skills within the curriculum and through additional activities, that allow them to be successful in the community.



## 7. What are the arrangements for assessing and reviewing student progress towards outcomes?

All pupils, including those with SEND, are assessed on a regular basis, in accordance with the academy's assessment policy. Teachers formally assess and review progress and attainment, which is communicated to parent carers by a report that is sent home twice a year. Additionally, parent carer evenings are held once or twice a year dependant on the year group when there is an opportunity to discuss progress, attainment and next steps.

Pupils at Wave 2 of the graduated response (See iCREATE) may have a pupil passport that is co-produced with the pupil and shared with parent carers for comments and support. Passports outline strategies and agreed targets to support progress and are assessed as often as required but at least every term.

Pupils with SEND who are identified at Wave 3 or 4 of the graduated approach (See iCREATE) will have termly Assess Plan Do Review APDR's cycle, these are reviewed each term with new targets co-constructed with parent carers and pupils, where appropriate.

All students with an Education, Health & Care Plan have an Annual Review (EYFS will be bi-annually), where a discussion is held around progress towards meeting the outcomes stated in the plan. This is conducted with all stakeholders including parent carers and pupils. Amendments to the plan can be made, which when agreed by the Local Authority, should lead to a reviewed and updated plan.

At times, when needs appear to change more quickly, an emergency annual review may be considered in order to ensure the EHC plan remains fully appropriate.

Pupils who have been assessed as needing support with SEND are placed on our Special needs register. Parent carers and pupils will all be informed if this is required. Pupils can be placed on the register at any time and sometime will only need to be on the register for a short time. If the academy is able to address the initial need and support the pupil through our ordinarily available provision the pupil may be taken off the register, when this happens it is always discussed with parent carers and pupils.

## 8. Who should I contact if I want to find out more information or think my child has SEND?

If you have any concerns about your child's progress, your first point of contact should always be your child's form tutor, class teacher or head of year. Following this communication, the relevant person will contact the SENDCo to discuss these concerns, if appropriate.

This is the first step in the graduated response of a pupil's needs.

The contact details for members of staff who are able to support students and families with additional needs are:

Steph Osborne	Helen Campbell/ Rebecca Barratt	Sandra Dudley
SENDCo	Deputy SENDCo	Assistant SENDCo

Contact – [Stephanie.Osborne@thistleyhoughacadmey.org.uk](mailto:Stephanie.Osborne@thistleyhoughacadmey.org.uk)

Telephone – 01782 883500

## **9. How do we know if the support we offer and provide is effective?**

Progress at Thistley Hough Academy is underpinned by our Teaching and Learning framework. We continuously ensure the provision we provide has a positive impact on the outcomes for all of our pupils. Pupils' academic progress is monitored termly through summative and formative assessments. Quality assurance takes place throughout the year to ensure appropriate provision is in place to support all pupils. The progress of pupils with SEND is monitored by both the class teacher and the SENDCo using summative assessments and day to day informal assessments that can be made during lessons and interventions. The information regarding progress is then used to evaluate the effectiveness of the support given. We also gather information from pupils, parent carers as well as professionals from other agencies. The impact of interventions can be measured through SMART target setting at the start and by reviewing progress at the end. This can be in the form of data, for example reading age or standardised scores or, in the case of social interventions, progress can be evaluated by whether or not the pupil has met the targets set out at the start of the programme e.g in their pupil passports.

Other methods of our evaluation include:

- Provision Mapping
- SENDCo/SLT/Academy Counsellor monitoring
- Performance Management Targets
- SEND Quality Assurance visits
- Teaching and Learning Audits
- Intervention Impact Reports
- Pupil passports

It is of the utmost importance to us that the provision we provide is effective and therefore we regularly review its impact. The SENDCo reports the impact, evaluation and effectiveness of provision to the Senior Leadership Team, academy council and various improvement panels on a regular basis.

## **10. What are the arrangements for consulting parent carers of pupils with SEND and involving them in their child's education?**

We take our responsibility to work with parent carers very seriously. We strive at all times to provide the information needed for parent carers to make informed decisions about their child's education.

- We will work to ensure that everyone is clear on what the agreed outcomes are for the child and what the next steps are to achieve these.
- We will work to develop a strong understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and where additional support is needed.



- We will take into account parental concerns and work towards solutions as quickly as possible.
- We notify parent carers when it is decided that a pupil will receive SEND support (Wave 3).
- We will draw attention to available support outside school (e.g. Special Educational Needs and Disability Advisory Support Service - S.E.N.D.I.A.S.S. (formerly Parent Partnership Service) [Home – SENDIASS](#) and the Local Offer [SEND Local Offer – SEND Local Offer](#)).

Parent carers can support the school by encouraging the pupil to fully engage with their learning and any interventions offered by:

- Helping them to be organised for their day (bringing the right equipment)
- Full attendance and good punctuality
- Completion of homework
- Attending parent carer meetings
- Attending any meetings specifically arranged for your child
- Ensuring any additional information parent carers feel is important is communicated in a timely way

The annual information report is shared with parent carers prior to publication so that all views and suggestions can be fully integrated.

## **11. What are the arrangements for consulting pupils with SEND and involving them in their education?**

All pupils are encouraged to take part in pupil voice activities; regularly evaluate their work in lessons; attend review meetings; contribute to the assess, plan do and review process and reflect on their learning and achievements. Mentoring takes place where pupils have detailed discussions with their key worker about their attainment, progress and next steps for improvement.

Pupils with SEND will be given additional opportunities to share their voice with allocated time with members from the SEND team.

## **12. How does the school involve other bodies, including health and social care, local authority support services and voluntary sector organisations in meeting a student's SEND and supporting their families?**

Thistley Hough Academy has developed effective working relationships with a wide range of external partners, professionals and agencies. These services are contacted when necessary and appropriate, according to a pupils' needs. The school works closely with

Stoke On Trent Local Authority and we use the Early Help Assessment process when appropriate to do so.

A variety of support services are available for the parent carers of pupils with SEND, which can include access to advice and support from Education Psychology, Speech and language Therapy, school nursing services and Occupational Therapy, if they are available and needed. More information about this support can be accessed through the following forms of communication:

Early Help Assessment – [Website](#)

School nursing referral information - [Health Visiting and School Nursing:: Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust](#)

Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) - [Home – SENDIASS](#)

Stoke On Trent Local Offer - [SEND Local Offer – SEND Local Offer](#)

### **13. What are the arrangements for supporting students in moving between phases of education and in preparing for adulthood?**

Transitions can be a complex and daunting time for some pupils. These transitions can include:

- Arriving at our Academy as your first school
- Moving from primary school into our Academy
- Moving to our Academy from another secondary school
  
- Moving classes or groups within school
- Having a new teacher
- Moving from our Academy to work, college or university

Thistley Hough Academy is committed to working with pupils, their parent carers and families, and other settings/providers to ensure that we use foresight and our collective expertise to ensure that positive transitions occur.

Planning and support for transition is a particular and important element of our provision for all SEND students at Thistley Hough Academy.

Planning for transition from Year 6 to secondary school begins within Upper Key Stage 2. For those students with EHCPs, the SENDCo will liaise with the family and the primary school prior to starting in Year 7 to ensure that provision is in place and there is as smooth a transition as possible. Extra transition days are provided for students with SEND.

From Year 8, transition planning starts for the move into Key Stage 4 and from there into sixth form, college or employment. The SENDCo and form tutors work closely with other providers and settings to ensure a transition which is as smooth and positive as possible for students with SEND. The school has a dedicated Careers Advisor who is able to support

students with their transition planning. Students with EHCP's will have one to one meetings with the Careers Advisor from Year 9 onwards.

For pupils with an EHCP, additional information is gathered and shared with future education providers, ensuring the most appropriate provision and support is available.

#### **14. What adaptations are made to the curriculum and learning environment for students with SEND?**

Most of our pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum, however, a small number of students have a more personalised approach to the curriculum to match their individual needs, interests and abilities and allow them to make use of adaptations to support their access to an inclusive approach. This may include option choices, additional literacy or other intervention groups.

#### **15. What expertise and training do staff complete to support students with SEND?**

Annual training covering various aspects of SEND is offered to all staff as part of the Trust and Academy's Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme. Staff have received and continue to receive training across all areas of need identified in the SEND Code of Practice.

The following members of staff have completed the National Award for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Steph Osborne SENDCo

Helen Campbell Deputy SENDCo

Rebecca Barratt Deputy SENDCo

Additionally, the following members of staff have qualifications related to SEND:

Sandra Dudley

Sandra Gillies

Amanda Southwick

Angela Evans

Sarah Goldstraw

#### **16. How do students with SEND engage in the activities available with those in the school who do not have SEND?**

A large range of academic and hobby/interest clubs are available at Thistley Hough Academy. These are open to all students, including students with SEND; the timetable is available on the school's website and is shared regularly with parent carers.

During the 2024/2025 academic year pupils from Thistley Hough Academy attended the following:

- Ninja Warrior
- Whirling Woods Residential
- A range of sports fixtures
- Alton Towers
- Feasted
- CCF Caerwent Residential
- Dance Club performed at the Victoria Hall
- World of Wedgwood
- Condover Hall Residential
- Bletchly Park
- GCSE Science Live
- Lego rewards
- Afternoon Tea Rewards
- Cinema rewards
- Escape Rooms Rewards
- Inflatable Rewards

Day and residential trips are open to all children and your child's specific needs can be discussed if they wish to join such a trip.

## **17. What support is available for improving students' social and emotional development?**

At Thistley Hough Academy we take our pastoral responsibilities seriously. We pride ourselves on providing a high level of pupil support and guidance.

There are additional members of staff who are able to provide pastoral support, these include: Head of Years, Form Teachers, Behaviour Team, School Counsellor, ELSA (Emotional Learning Support Assistants), Teaching Assistants and Key Workers and the SENDCo and Assistant SENDCo.

Creative Education Trust has entered into a partnership with Therapeutic Thinking Ltd to provide training, guidance and advice in regard to how to support increased awareness and self-regulation for pupils at Thistley Hough Academy.

## **18. Why is Attendance Important for pupils with SEND –**

### **How leaders and staff support attendance in school.**

Attendance at Thistley Hough Academy is a primary focus for all pupils and students but is particularly important for pupils who have SEND.

The impact of days lost for pupils with SEND can be greater than for pupil who do not have SEND. We would like all our pupils to attend every day and achieve 100 % attendance but appreciate that some pupils with SEND may find this challenging due to medical appointments for example. The table below outlines how the percentage is impacted by the days missed at school.



Maximum Sessions	No. Attended Sessions	No. Absent Sessions	No. Days absence	Attendance %
380	369	11	5.7	97%
380	361	19	9.5	95%
380	350	30	15.2	92%
380	342	38	19	90%
380	323	57	28.5	85%
380	304	76	38	80%
380	285	95	47.5	75%

At Thistley Hough Academy we will contact parent carers informally if there are growing concerns in relation to attendance. This may take the form of a phone call or email or another agreed form of communication. This reach out to parent carers is intended to help create a supportive approach to enable attendance to be as close to 100% as possible, but particularly to stay above the target rate of **95%** which means less than **10 days** off school per year.

If attendance for any pupil with SEND falls below 95%, The SENDCo will work in partnership with attendance leads at the academy and if needed wider multi agency support, eg medical and professional services and this approach may support attendance with an agreed plan, which parent carers will be invited to co-produce with the academy. These plans will record all the individual and unique context and challenges that our pupils with SEND have to navigate such as medical appointments and issues relating to mental health and other identified needs.

### **19. What are the arrangements for handling complaints from parents/carers of students with SEND about the provision made at the school?**

We hope that by maintaining a regular dialogue between parent carers and school the need to raise a complaint will be minimised. However, if you do need to raise a complaint about any issue relating to SEND, the process is outlined below:

1. Contact the SENDCo (unless the complaint is directly regarding the SENDCo, then contact the Principal or refer to the academy complaint policy)

Steph Osborne, SENDCO

Email: [Stephanie.osborne@thistleyhoughacademy.org.uk](mailto:Stephanie.osborne@thistleyhoughacademy.org.uk)

Tel: 01782 883500

The opportunity to initially attend a meeting will be arranged to discuss and work towards a resolution of your complaint.

2. Should the complaint not be resolved satisfactorily at the meeting please refer to Thistley Hough Academy complaints policy on the school's website.



## References / Examples

Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (published by the Department for Education, January 2015 and available for download at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>)