



St Katherine's School



2 September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

With the return to school about to start, it is natural that some of our pupils are starting to think about our plans for SEND support and interventions this year. We are acutely aware that the previous year has been challenging for many of our pupils and their families, especially in respect to their mental health and emotional wellbeing. With this in mind, we want to ensure that our pupils with SEND receive the support and reassurance they need to help them settle into school again in September.

Engage

Engage will continue to be staffed by members of the SEND Team at all times including lunch times for a small number of named pupils to access an agreed provision. This year we have had a small number of pupils who have used a RAG card (red amber green) to help them to monitor their emotions. Some pupils have an arrangement that they can come to Engage on an ad hoc basis when they need to regulate. The RAG card list and pupils' arrangements will be reviewed in September as needs and conditions change. RAG cards will not automatically continue. We will reissue them in agreement with the Head of House, the parents/carers and the child in September where necessary.

Interventions

Interventions will begin in a staged approach with all interventions running by the end of Term 1. We will schedule sessions in line with the provision outlined on individual EHCP or SEND Support Plans. Interventions will include speech and language therapy/lego therapy, literacy support, counselling and emotional literacy support. Parental consent will be required and the interventions will be timetabled and communicated in advance.

Classroom support

The way that learning support assistants support pupils in the classroom will be returning to shared in-class support in line with the provision outlined on a pupils' EHCPs or SEND Support Plan. This will be reviewed frequently and adjustments made where required. Many pupils with SEND have been allocated keyworkers in addition to the support they receive from the pastoral team and these arrangements will continue to be reviewed.

Meetings and SEND Support Plans

The SEND team will meet parents of pupils with SEND Support Plans throughout the year in line with our graduated approach of assess, plan, do and review. We will create or review SEND Support Plans/EHCPs during these meetings. We will be planning meeting dates with parents/carers throughout the year. EHCP annual review meetings will take place after school in Engage and dates will be agreed in September.

Brain breaks

Some pupils, not limited to but including students with ADHD diagnoses, require brain breaks as outlined on a pupil's EHCP or SEND Support Plan. Again, this affects a small number of pupils and these pupils have a previously agreed arrangement and safe space to go to if required.

Fiddle Toys

We have been closely monitoring the use of fiddle toys and doodle books to aid concentration for pupils with SEND. We have found that the impact is negative and can be detrimental to the pupils' learning. Our expectation is that pupils will not bring fiddle toys into school from September. We respectfully ask that you support us with this request and contact us should you have any concerns. If pupils bring fiddle toys into school they will be confiscated, taken to Student Support where pupils can collect them at the end of the day.

Laptops

As outlined in our 'Acceptable Use Policy' (3.5 Exams) pupils should only use a laptop in school if this has been agreed by the SENDCO because it is their normal way of working and appropriate to their learning needs. Pupils who use a laptop in school due to these reasons will be seen by the Exam Access Arrangements Assessor by the end of Year 9. Parents will receive confirmation about all agreed Exam Access Arrangements during Year 11.

A laptop should not be used because a pupil would prefer to type rather than write, because they can work faster or because they use a laptop at home. Please support the school by ensuring that laptops are kept at home unless this provision has been agreed by the SENDCO. Pupils will be asked to leave their laptops at home if they bring it into school without prior agreement.

Toilet passes

Toilet passes for children with a medical need will continue. Please inform us if this need has changed so that we can update our records. We ask that parents provide medical evidence in order for us to issue a toilet pass. If your child requires a toilet pass for a medical reason, please email Nicky Grocock at Student Support on grocockn@skdrive.org.

SEND: Contact Us

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Mrs Flora Slater	SENDCo	slaterf@skdrive.org
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Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working closely with all our students and families this year.

Yours sincerely



Flora Slater
SENDCO