



Axe Valley Academy
Special Educational Needs Information Report
Updated September 2021

School Policy and procedure

What kinds of SEND do pupils in the school have?

Axe Valley Academy is a mainstream school set in the market town of Axminster in East Devon. There is a strong emphasis on inclusion and our students leave our school to undertake the next step in their journey with the wide range of skills required to live a happy and successful life.

We successfully support students with a wide range of needs within the four main areas of communication and interaction, cognition and learning, social, emotional and mental health, and physical and sensory needs. These can include more specific needs such as: Dyslexia, dyspraxia, epilepsy, autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, hearing and visual impairments, social, emotional and mental health. This is not an exhaustive list and changes over time.

How do you know if a student needs extra help?

Axe Valley Academy has strong relationships with its feeder primary schools, Devon County Council 0-25 Team, and other agencies and organisations known to our future and current students.

Prior to transition to the school, the SENDCo, Assistant SENDCo and Head of Year visit and meet with students and spend time with their teachers to find out more about how they like to learn and socialise.

The information gathered from transition visits supports the school to assess their need on arrival. Screening for reading and spelling is undertaken at the beginning of year 7. Students are observed in class by teachers, teaching assistants and the SENDCo and there is ample opportunity for student, teacher and parent feedback on progress and for concerns to be raised.

As a parent/carer you will receive/have access to:

-school reports three times a year in November, March and June;

Termly meetings with a member of the learning support team which may be face to face or by telephone

-communication through Bromcom; -information about rewards and sanctions.

In addition you may also be involved in:

	<p>-Annual Review or Transfer review meetings (held for identified high needs students – you will be informed if your child is included within this category), which includes opportunities for the views of parents/carers and the child;</p> <p>-Learning passports;</p> <p>At any time you may contact your child’s Form Tutor, Head of Year or the SENDCo or Assistant SENDCo for further information.</p> <p>The school SENDCo is Gill Cooper, and she can be contacted at gcooper@axevalley.uat.ac The Assistant SENDCo is Tracy Tresserras, and she can be contacted at ttresserras@axevalley.uat.ac Alternatively, you can call reception and ask to speak with them on 01297 32146.</p>
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Day to day support	
<p>How do teachers help pupils with SEND? How will the school support my child?</p>	<p>Teaching staff will support students at a level appropriate to their needs through effective differentiation in the classroom (high quality or quality first teaching). This is constantly reviewed by teaching staff and the SENDCo. Students requiring more specific intervention to access the curriculum may be supported in a range of ways, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Individual or small group literacy and numeracy programmes; -Individual or small group social and emotional development programmes; -Shared in-class support from a teaching assistant. <p>Axe Valley Academy graduated approach ensures that staff continuously assess, plan, teach and review the progress of students. This is overseen by the SENDCo and enables concerns to be acknowledged and addressed quickly whilst providing robust evidence of need to external organisations such as the Devon County 0-25 Team.</p>
<p>How will the curriculum be matched to my child’s needs?</p>	<p>The curriculum is matched to students’ needs on an individual basis where the need is identified. Most students follow the same broad and balanced curriculum as their peers, perhaps with minor adjustments to ensure accessibility. Teachers support students by differentiating the lesson content to meet the needs of all. Where students have complex needs, teachers are supported by the Learning Support Team.</p>
<p>Is there any additional support available to help children with SEND?</p>	<p>Additional support can include teaching assistant support in lessons and extra or supplementary literacy and numeracy interventions. Students can also be referred to external agencies such as health, social care or specialist teachers and educational psychologists.</p>

	<p>Parents and carers will be notified if their child is receiving additional support and are welcome to contact the SENDCo or Assistant SENDCo at any time about the provision.</p>
<p>How will the school know how well my child is doing?</p> <p>How will I know my child is making progress? How do you check on this?</p> <p>How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom, including school trips?</p>	<p>Year 7 students complete reading and spelling tests. There are a series of assessments undertaken in each subject per year and this data is analysed by Heads of Department, Heads of Year and the Senior Leadership Team.</p> <p>Axe Valley Academy will share this data with parents and carers at three points throughout the year – November, March, June and at Parent/Carer-Teacher evenings.</p> <p>Provision for students identified as having a special education need is reviewed on a termly basis. At the beginning of, and during, interventions for students, baseline data is gathered, and the effectiveness of the intervention measured on levels of progress. This is not always an academic measurement; social and emotional and mental health progress is also considered.</p> <p>Axe Valley Academy prides itself on its extra-curricular offer and the inclusivity of the programme. There are a wide variety of clubs and activities available to students at both lunchtimes and after school. All students, regardless of need, are actively encouraged and supported to attend any activity of interest to them.</p>
<p>How will you support my child's overall well-being?</p>	<p>All staff are aware of the importance of student wellbeing and always put the wellbeing of their students first. Each student has a Form tutor. Tutors often run the extensive and time protected Personal Development sessions which ensures they build a strong relationship and understanding of their tutees.</p> <p>There is an extensive Personal Development curriculum that encourages students to learn the skills to manage their own wellbeing and to support others to do the same.</p> <p>Each student with an identified special educational need has a keyworker and all students with identified wellbeing concerns will be offered additional interventions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support from the School Nurse; -support from the Pastoral Support Team -clubs; -Access to Learning support/Hubs; -Careers Advice; -support from other agencies as required.

Involving families	
<p>How will you help me to support my child's learning? When will we be able to discuss my child's progress?</p>	<p>Parents and carers will receive a report three times per year. If a student is on the SEND register parents and carers can obtain more detailed information from the SENDCo. There are Parent/carer-Teacher evenings held throughout the year as well as multiple information opportunities to meet with staff at open evenings and School events.</p> <p>Axe Valley Academy actively encourages parents and carers to contact the School to discuss their child's progress or any concerns they might have. Form Tutors should be contacted in the first instance but if the student has an EHCP please contact the SENDCo.</p>
<p>How will my child be able to share their views?</p>	<p>Students at Axe Valley have their voices heard every day and in a variety of ways. A school council is democratically elected, and all students are encouraged to apply to represent their peers.</p> <p>Students who require additional SEND support or who have an EHCP are asked for their views on a regular basis. They are encouraged to attend meetings about their progress and provision, but we also recognise that some students would like to discuss this with their keyworker and have their views passed on by them to professionals.</p>
<p>How will you support my child when he/she joins your school or moves class or transfers to a new school?</p>	<p>As part of the Y6-Y7 transition process, all primary schools with children that have SEND are contacted and information is shared. Both the Assistant SENDCo and Head of Year work closely with the SENDCo and teachers in the primary schools to ensure a positive transition. All students that require extra support with transition are offered additional settling in days.</p> <p>When transitions occur within school, there is an extensive handover of information between staff and opportunities for students to meet their new teachers where appropriate.</p>

Staff skills and wider support	
What skills do the staff have to meet my child's needs?	Gill Cooper is the SENDCo and has over 25 years experience as a SENCo and has completed a postgraduate certificate in the Education of Hearing Impaired Children Tracy Tresserras is the Assistant SENDCo. We have a team of Teaching Assistants, including two Higher Level Teaching Assistants who are trained to deliver SEN provision.
What specialist services are available at or accessed by the school?	<p>Staff training has included but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lego Therapy; -Attachment Based Mentoring; -Dyslexia support; -Numeracy support; -Autism Awareness; <p>Specialist expertise is secured in the main through Devon County Council and Babcock when required, and can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Speech and Language Therapy; -Educational Psychology; -Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; -Occupational Therapy; -Early Help; -0-25 Team; -School Nursing team; -Physiotherapy Team; -Visual Impairment and Hearing Impairment; -Educational Welfare Officer.
What happens if my child needs specialist equipment?	If a student requires specialist equipment the SENDCo will discuss their needs with parents/carers and external agencies as appropriate.
How accessible is the school and how does it arrange the facilities children need?	<p>The school is mostly wheelchair accessible with disabled changing and toilet facilities.</p> <p>The School accesses support from Babcock specialist teachers when appropriate.</p>
How will my child manage tests and exams?	Teaching staff and the Access Arrangements Coordinator, overseen by the SENDCo, assess children regularly to see if access arrangements for formal examinations are required. If this is the case parents and carers will be formally notified.

Accessing advice and support

What should I do if I think my child may have a special educational need or disability?

Gill Cooper is the SENDCo and can be contacted at gcooper@axevalley.uat.ac Tracy Tresserras is the Assistant SENDCo and can be contacted at ttresserras@axevalley.devon.sch.uk

Alternatively, you can speak with them by calling reception on 0129732146

The governor with responsibility for SEND is Julie Paddick who can be contacted at jpaddick@axevalley.uat.ac

What do I do if I'm not happy or if I want to complain?

The staff at Axe Valley come to work every day with the aim of supporting students to achieve their very best. However, if a parent or carer ever felt the need to complain about the provision or the policy, they should, in the first instance, raise it with the SENDCo, Gill Cooper, who will try to resolve the situation.

If however the issue cannot be resolved, the parent or carer can submit a formal complaint under the School's Complaints Procedure. The complaint will be investigated and managed under the process described in this policy. You can obtain a copy of the Policy from the School's website.

Where can I get information, advice and support?

Where can I find out about other services that might be available for our family and my child?

If you require further information, advice and support please contact Gill Cooper, SENDCo in the first instance. Alternatively, or in addition to, please access the Devon Information, Advice and Guidance Service (DIAS) at www.devonias.org.uk or the Devon County Council website www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/send-local-offer/about-send-and-the-local-offer/.