

Inspire - Enable - Achieve



The Vale Federation SEN Policy

Date policy last reviewed: June 2024

Date policy to be reviewed: June 2025

Signed:

B Zi

Principal

Date 4th October 2024

David J Pearce

Chair of Governors

Date 9th October 2024

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Introduction

The Vale Federation is made up of Booker Park School and Stocklake Park School.

Booker Park School is a co-educational special school catering for pupils with a range of special needs, mainly severe and profound and multiple learning difficulties. It includes the age range 3-11 and supports 235 pupils.

Stocklake Park School is a co-educational, local authority maintained special school catering mainly for children with severe learning difficulties. It includes the age range 11-19 and supports 100 pupils.

The schools provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all our students taking into account individual specialised needs to ensure whole curriculum entitlement and access. This includes the National Curriculum. We are committed to providing the highest quality of education for all students and using our resources efficiently. We have a community programme that allows our facilities to be accessed 50 weeks per year and that brings in additional funds to support our therapy provision as well as being accessible to our local community.

This policy will reflect the key elements of the Equality Act with a commitment to promoting equality in disability, race, gender, socio economic circumstances, pregnancy, maternity, and paternity.

The Principal has overall strategic responsibility of the Federation. Heads of School have responsibility for the leadership and management of their own school. Day-to-day operation is the responsibility of all teachers and all support staff. The class teacher also has key responsibility for coordinating individual pupils' educational provision in consultation with all who support or provide advice. We seek to ensure that parents/carers are informed through this process.

Admission arrangements are the responsibility of the Local Authority, Buckinghamshire Council SEN Team. All pupils are supported through an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

We have a hydrotherapy pool at Booker Park and Rebound Centre at Stocklake Park school. All specialist facilities are shared across both schools.

Staff Training

The governing body of The Vale Federation supports and invests in the professional development of all staff in order to maintain a qualified and trained staff and improve the quality of learning in the classroom.

We have an appointed senior leader who co-ordinates training and individuals are supported through this by identification of suitable external grants.

All staff are encouraged to help identify and meet their development needs through discussions with the Principal, Head of School and through probation and performance management.

Allocation of funds and on going assessment for future provision

The budget is monitored regularly throughout the year by the Principal and Governing Body to ensure there is efficient and effective management to meet the special educational needs of the students attending our schools. MASKS, our School Fund, also provides money to improve the quality of our provision. Our Parents and staff also organise events and fundraisers to secure improved outcomes for our students and their families.

We believe all children have a right to be heard and be involved in decision making at an appropriate level. Their support is crucial to the future success of our learning programme. In practice students are encouraged to be involved in the following ways:

- Wherever possible being given a choice and a means of communication.
- Recognising their achievements and where they need to go next, where appropriate commenting on this
- Where appropriate discussing their own problems, feelings and difficulties with adults and sometimes other children.
- School Council
- Attendance and participation at their Annual Review meeting, as appropriate
- Attendance and presentation to Governors
- Transition meetings

Inclusion/Integration

The schools aim to be as inclusive as possible in all areas of its work. Integration is organised as follows:

- Mainstream pupils on work experience placement in our schools;
- Trainee Nurse placements;
- Volunteering at local charity shops;
- Students from local Grammar School coming in on placements;
- Our own Work Experience placements in the local community and shops.

Criteria for evaluation of the SEN Policy

The governing body will seek to ensure the best possible provision for SEN at our schools. All governors are aware of their responsibilities for SEN and discuss the issues regularly.

The governing body evaluates the success of the education we provide, using the following criteria:

- Monitoring the allocated budget
- Staff training plan being met.
- Views of parents and students inform our Vision statement, self-evaluation, and school development planning.
- Parents feeling involved in their child's learning.
- Accurate up to date record keeping.
- The number and % attendance of parents at Annual Review meetings
- Parental requests to attend schools.
- Increase in pupil attainment through our target setting process.
- Numbers of pupils who pursue post 17 and 19 educations.

- Links with community sustained
- Links with mainstream schools and special schools to increased contact/staff development.
- Annual SEN policy review
- OFSTED inspection reports
- Regular governor visits covering a broad spectrum of topics but including regular safeguarding meetings.
- Oral and written feedback from pupils/parents/visitors

We believe parents and carers play a vital role in the success of their child's education. We are committed to a close working relationship with parents through newsletters, annual reviews, and daily home school diaries, as well as sharing progress through the platform Evidence for Learning.

Parents are encouraged to discuss any problems with the school. These should be raised initially with the pupil's class teacher, then a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Head of School. Most problems can be resolved in this way. If not, parents are advised to make use of the official Complaints Procedure.