



**G5.4a**

## **LEARNING SUPPORT AT THE DOWNS PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

### **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

**Head of the Learning Support department is Miss Gemma Battle-Welch MA**

We want your child to succeed and for them to recognise their achievements. We instil a culture of working hard and see failure as an opportunity to grow not give in.

#### **Our Learning Support department**

- All Learning Support teaching staff at The Downs have a qualification in supporting pupils with specific literacy difficulties alongside their teaching qualifications.
- The Learning support department consists of three specialist teachers, one learning support assistant and one maths learning support assistant. A sporty group with interests in walking, kickboxing, rugby and cross fit as well as one mean Marmalade maker!
- Our aim in Learning Support is to empower our pupils to succeed. We want to nurture a love of learning and provide the pupils with the strategies to see beyond their difficulties and focus on their strengths.

#### **How will we know if your child has a learning difficulty?**

- All pupils (Year 1-8) are assessed using nationally standardised assessment programmes giving each pupil a profile of their literacy and numeracy, but also their potential.
- It may be necessary to refer the pupil on for further testing by an educational psychologist, which would be discussed in detail with parents. An assessment

often leads to a more confident child empowered by the knowledge of how they learn and finally having the strategies to fulfil their potential.

### **How we know if your child is making progress towards targets**

- All pupils receiving additional support have an individual education plan (IEP) which is discussed with the pupil, parents and class teacher. This IEP is reviewed twice a year and parents have the opportunity to contribute.

### **How we make our facilities available to all**

- We want to get the support right for each child. We are happy to discuss with any parent their concerns regarding their child's ability to learn.
- Early morning reading, touch typing and times tables can be available for all pupils who require working on these specific skills.

### **How the school develops its overall teaching and adapts its curriculum**

#### **○ In the classroom**

- Quality First Teaching is actively supported by Learning Support. Staff are encouraged to use a pupil-led approach in the classroom and all staff access the Individual Education Plans to aid this approach.

#### **○ Through the staff body**

- Inset training is provided for all staff with Learning Support leading at least one session a year. Learning Support liaise closely with class teachers and subject leaders and the Head of Learning Support attends the Curriculum Group meetings termly to discuss the curriculum at leadership level.

### **How we ensure that your child has a successful transition from one provision to another**

- The teaching staff of the Pre Prep and the Prep discuss all the pupils year by year during the first day of term.
- The advantage of the contained campus is that all pupils from reception to year eight are familiar with the buildings from beginning of their time at The Downs.
- Any pupils requiring specific support in moving up a year are worked with during the summer term to ensure their concerns about the next year are minimal and strategies are in place for a smooth transition.

### How we know that our provision is effective

- Pupils' and parents' feedback is encouraged and used to influence future targets and shape the one-to-one support programmes.
- All parents of those accessing one to one support are invited in the summer to an informal gathering with all the learning support staff

### How we can secure additional services and expertise

- We are very fortunate to have an independent speech and language specialist work within our school one day a week who works with individual pupils but also provides the staff body with advice and guidance for the class room.
- For further information on specific learning difficulties the following websites may be of use: [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk), [www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk](http://www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk), [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)
- The following link is for child and adolescent mental health services in North Somerset:  
<http://www.waht.nhs.uk/en-GB/NHS-Mobile/Our-Services/?depth=3&srcid=689>
- Here's the link to the area wide local offer which has details of all local professionals including speech therapists, educational psychologists, occupational therapists etc.:  
<http://northsomersetonlinedirectory.n-somerset.gov.uk/kb5/northsomerset/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel>

### If you have any concerns

- If you have a query regarding your child's progress in class then please initially contact their teacher. If you would like to raise an issue regarding their one-to-one support please contact Miss Battle-Welch or your child's Learning Support teacher. Any further queries, please refer to the School's complaints procedure.

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the School</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
06/03/18	G Battle-Welch	25/03/19