



## **Special Education Needs and Disability Policy**

**April 2017**

**Reviewed and approved by Sentamu Academy Learning Trust Board of Directors on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

# Sentamu Academy Learning Trust

## **Vision Statement:**

“Be Extraordinary”

## **Mission Statement:**

We believe that young people achieve their fullest potential when they have a vision of everything their lives could become. The Bible (John 10:10) quotes Jesus as saying, “I have come that they may have life and may have it in all its fullness”. As academies, we commit ourselves to inspiring our students, and equipping them with the resilience and determination to unlock their unique gifts and realise their highest aspirations. We aim to achieve this through following distinctively Christian principles, and focusing on four key areas, service, achievement, leadership and teamwork.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) POLICY**

### **1. Responsibilities**

- 1.1 The Sentamu Academy Learning Trust Board of Directors has primary responsibility for the management and operation of its Academies. Some of these responsibilities, including the implementation of the SEND Policy, have been delegated to the Local Governing Committee, the Principal and/or senior managers who shall comply with all policies and procedures issued by the Board of Directors and take into consideration any subsequent advice and recommendations given to them by the Directors.
- 1.2 The Board of Directors maintain the right to involve itself in any area of implementing this policy and procedure that it deems appropriate.

### **2. Definitions**

- 2.1 In this procedure the following words and expressions shall have the following meanings:

"Directors" or "Trust Board" means the Board of Directors of the Trust as constituted from time to time, or where appropriate any sub-committee of the Board of Directors.

"Governors" means the local governing body of each Academy referred to as the Local Governing Committee (LGC) as constituted, or where appropriate, any sub-committee of the Local Governing Committee. Each Local Governing Committee has specific delegated powers for the management of the business of each Academy as agreed by the Directors.

"Trust" means the Sentamu Academy Learning Trust;

"Executive Principal" means the Executive Principal of the Trust and may also be referred to as the "Principal" in this procedure;

“Principal” means the head of the Academy and may also be known as the Headteacher.

“Vice Principal” can also be referred to as a Deputy Headteacher.

### **3. Purpose**

The Trust is committed to having policies and procedures in place on special educational needs so that we can ensure effective provision for those students, and for those with a disability, and meet statutory requirements. <sup>1</sup> A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

### **4. Policy**

Our expectation is that all teaching reflects students’ level of prior attainment. All students with special educational needs or a disability should be taught in a way that reflects their particular needs so that they achieve their potential.

Students identified as having a special educational need will receive relevant support and intervention and their progress will be kept under review (‘assess - plan - do – review’). Each of our Academies will provide this support inside or outside of their normal classroom. Such provision will be additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age.

Each Academy receives some specific additional funding for those students with special educational needs or disability. It is used to identify any students who have a special educational need or disability (prior to entry wherever that is possible and thereafter as required) and to provide appropriate support for them.

In addition, students with Education, health and care plans may receive additional help from nominated and/or specialist teaching assistants in a particular subject or range of subjects and/or to meet particular needs.

<sup>1</sup> See The Children and Families Act: Section 69 and The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014. See also The 0-25 Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice.

Students may have either difficulties in communication and interaction, cognition and learning, and social, emotional and mental health. They may have sensory and/or physical needs. Those with higher levels of these difficulties or needs may be eligible for support and intervention from outside agencies.

Support will be provided for admissions (under s324 of the Education Act 1996) examinations and transitions where applicable. The Trust will work with local authorities ('the local offer') to support parents and students and provide links to other agencies.

## **5. Named contacts**

Each Academy within the Trust will publish its own SEND Policy and Procedure in support of the Trust's principles. Within this and on their website they will publish the name of the relevant named teacher with responsibility for SEND (SENCO).

The SENCO and a nominated Local Governor will ensure that all statutory requirements are met and that annual reviews are conducted and acted on.

## **6. Complaints**

Any complaints regarding SEND should be dealt with under the Trust's complaints procedure.

## **7. Monitoring and review**

The Board of Directors has agreed that this policy will be reviewed on an annual basis. This review will take into consideration all aspects of applicable legislation and advice current at the time of the review. The next 'Period of Review' will be **April 2018**.