



Uckfield College SEND Information Report 2018 19

Our SEND department is called Learning +. Our dedicated team enable our students to achieve their potential. Our aim is to support and challenge them to close any achievement or progress gaps.

Our special educational needs team:

			
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We also have a team of Learning Assistants who support students mainly in the classroom and sometimes provide withdrawal support.

What are special educational needs?

The East Sussex County Council definition of special educational needs states that young people have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

Children have a learning difficulty if they:

a) have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age;

Or

b) have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in schools within the area of the local education authority.

How does the college know if young people need extra help and what should I do if I think my young person may have special educational needs?

We gather information about our students from our primary partner schools. Every primary partner school is visited by our Director of Year 7 (DOY) and our SENDCo. If your child has an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) our SENDCo will usually attend their Year 6 Annual review meeting to ensure continuity of support and progress.

Once new students have settled in, all are assessed for any difficulties in reading, writing and spelling. This, combined with information from primary schools and their primary school progress information, is made available to teachers to use for planning. We also use these assessments to inform our intervention and support groups.

If your child has been on a SEND register at their previous school, they will be on our Closing the Gap register on arrival at Uckfield College. Our Closing the Gap register is updated weekly. Students can be referred to Learning + for support by different routes: teaching and pastoral staff make referrals as well as parents and students themselves. If you think your child might have special educational needs you should contact the SENDCo for that year group to discuss the matter further.

How will the college support my child's learning? How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive? How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

Students' needs are best met through high quality teaching by subject specialists who know all the students and take account of their needs in their planning. Lessons are pitched appropriately so that all students can learn effectively, with tasks, resources and pace set to match the individual child. Some subjects organise their teaching groups by ability.

The needs of students with SEND are communicated to the teaching departments through the Closing the Gap Register. All staff have regular training which advises on the best methods for teaching students with learning differences, for example those with autism, dyslexia or ADHD. Uckfield College also has a facility for students with high needs autism. Places in the facility are allocated in liaison with assessment and planning at East Sussex County Council.

In some lessons there might also be a learning assistant to support students. We endeavour to withdraw students as little as possible from their curriculum. The exception to this is when specialist teaching is required or a student requires some

additional support around organisation, homework or catch-up.

If a student is failing to make progress it may be necessary to have an individual programme of support and intervention, with a time frame and specific outcomes. This additional needs plan (ANP) will be developed with the SENDCo, the parent or carer and the child's input and will focus on outcomes. It may involve support from external services. The ANP will be reviewed three times a year.

If progress is still not made the next step might be to apply for an EHCP. Students with an EHCP will have their progress and well-being reviewed formally each year, but will be closely monitored at all times.

When your child takes external examinations he or she may require individual access arrangements which we are qualified to arrange, if appropriate. Exam access arrangements are assessed formally by college staff, following strict rules based on evidence from teachers in the classroom.

How will both you and I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?

All students at Uckfield College receive reports about progress and engagement in each subject area and a full written report each year. There are also parents' evenings, to which you and your child are invited, to discuss their progress and targets. At these evenings the Director of Year (DOY), Pastoral Leader (PaL) and SENDCo will be available to discuss any concerns.

What services are there for my child's overall well-being?

Every year group is led by a DOY and a PaL who will be available by appointment to discuss your child's well-being with you. The form tutors play a key role, as they have daily contact with students and will know your child best. If you have information or a concern about your child's well-being to share, it should be done initially through their form tutor, who will liaise with the DOY and PaL.

For students who need extra social support, we offer some structured lunchtime activities, a social skills group, a "chill room" to relax in and a homework club after school, with adult help to support homework tasks.

In some cases, it might also be helpful to refer students to external professionals. We have access to various traded services, such as Educational Psychology, Communication Learning and Autism Support Service and English as an Additional Language Service.

What training have the staff supporting young people with SEND had?

All teachers are able to support students with SEND. Whole college staff training regularly takes place, with a focus on special needs and disabilities, to inform and

support staff in their understanding and planning for all students. In addition, our Learning + team has experienced staff with different specialist qualifications.

What specialist services and expertise are available at, or accessed by, the college?

We work in partnership with a wide range of external specialist services. Within our Learning + team we have specialists in dyslexia; speech and language; autism and behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. We also have access to a counselling service.

How accessible is the college environment?

We seek advice from external services on how to make the site more accessible for any student with a disability. Within the college there are lifts and ramps to enable wheelchair access to most classrooms and two disabled toilets. Almost all of the site is accessible to wheelchairs.

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom, including school trips?

At Uckfield College we ensure that all our students have access to a wide range of educational opportunities and activities. We comply with all legislation in respect of accessibility and make reasonable adjustment where necessary. We would encourage you to discuss your concerns with us so that we can plan for the fullest inclusion possible together.

Further details can be obtained from our Equal Opportunities Policy.

How will you prepare and support my child to join the college, or transfer to the next stage of education?

In addition to the close working and visits that exist between the college and our feeder primary schools, there is a transition programme for those Year 7 students who might find the change of school difficult. This includes additional visits to the school, with activities and resources provided to support a successful transition.

Once students join us, our pastoral team work to support them to develop their coping skills and personal organisation, so that they manage their own learning effectively. We support every child in developing their skills so they can take personal responsibility for their learning, to realise their full potential.

Students with SEND issues will be supported through the options process and transition both into GCSE courses and on into post-16 study, A Levels, vocational qualification or apprenticeships.

How are parents involved in the college? How can I be involved? Who can I contact for further information?

We recognise the important role that parents can play in supporting their child's learning. If you wish to become more involved with your child's learning, please contact the appropriate SENDCo.

We also have a very active PTA and this is a good way to become more involved in the college community.

How are resources distributed to support student with SEND in the college and sixth-form?

Resources are distributed on the basis of need as identified by EHCP or ANP or analysis regarding a student's progress. In the sixth-form students are encouraged to be independent learners and use the excellent sixth-form facilities. The SEND team continue to support some sixth-form students on the basis of identified needs.