

Presdales School



'Achievement for All'

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Enquiries & comments

Any enquiries and comments about this publication may be made to:

Telephone: 01920 462210 / **Email:** admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk

Address: Hoe Lane, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 9N

SEND Policy

Presdales School

At November 2025, Presdales has **1173** students from Year 7 to Year 13. The school is non-selective. Presdales has **9.8%** of students on the SEND register, **37%** of students on our SEND tier system (see below), **7.8%** Pupil Premium and **6.9%** English as an Additional Language (EAL).

Students on tier one or two: 27.3%

Students on tier three: 6.6%

Students on tier four: 0.4%

Students on tier five: 2.7%

Engagement

Presdales has engaged members of their school community in developing their SEND Information Report and SEND policy.

School Mission Statement

Presdales' vision is a school which values students of all ages and abilities and helps them to exceed expectations through high quality teaching and learning and access to a wide variety of activities which enrich their education and personal development beyond the classroom.

Policy

This policy refers to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, The Equality Act 2010 and The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014. Full consideration has been given to the Code of Practice SEND 0-25 (January 2015).

Rationale

The school aims to enable all students to have equal access to the curriculum regardless of aptitude or disability. It seeks to enable students with special educational needs to access the curriculum by removing barriers to learning and supports them to develop any special talents whilst improving their self-confidence. Students are valued and achievements will be recognised.

At this school the person responsible for the provision made for students with SEND is Ms Laura Hussey who holds the National SENCo Award and her line manager is Mrs Julie Stephenson, Deputy Headteacher.

SEND aims:

- To work with the guidance provided in the SEND Code of Practice (January 2015)
- For all students to achieve their best and realise their potential
- For students to become confident individuals and live fulfilling lives
- To make a successful transition into adulthood, whether this is into employment, further or higher education or training
- To use best endeavors to make sure a student with SEND gets the support they need
- To ensure students and parents are participating as fully as possible in all decisions
- To do everything it can to meet students' SEND needs
- To ensure all students with SEND engage in activities of the school alongside other students who do not have SEND
- To have a designated teacher responsible for coordinating SEND throughout the school
- To inform parents of all the decisions being made about special educational provision
- To prepare and display on the website our SEND Information Report

Presdales will always take into account the views, wishes and feelings of the student and their parents/carers. Where possible, decisions will be made with the full participation of the students and parents/carers. Information about learning support, if needed, will be given to all those involved. This collaborative work will ensure the student achieves the best possible educational outcome.

Presdales' principles are designed to support:

- The participation of students and parents/carers with the school to achieve the best possible outcome for the student
- Early identification of need
- Greater control and choice to parents/carers
- Partnership and collaboration between education, health and social care services
- High quality SEND provision to meet the needs of all students with SEND

Definition of SEND

'A child or young person has SEND if they have learning difficulty or disability which call for special educational provision to made for him or her.' (SEND Code of Practice January 2015)

'A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she

- *Has a significant difficulty in learning which is greater than the majority of others of the same age*
- or*

- *Has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of the facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream school or mainstream post-16 institutions'*

(SEND Code of Practice January 2015)

The four broad areas of needs as defined in the SEND Code of Practice (January 2015) are:

1. Communication and interaction
2. Cognition and learning
3. Social, mental and emotional health
4. Sensory and/or physical

We also recognise there may be factors that affect progress and attainment which are *not* SEND. These may include:

- Slow progress and low attainment
- Attendance and punctuality
- Health and welfare
- English as an additional language (EAL)
- Students eligible for pupil premium funding

Equality and Inclusion

'Many children and young people who have SEND may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010-that is a '...a physical or mental impairment which has long term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities' (SEND Code of Practice January 2015)

All reasonable adjustments will be made for disabled students to access the school site; auxiliary aids can be provided with the support of the SEND team at Hertfordshire County. The Presdales School site is a physically challenging site and although the staff and trustees will make all reasonable adjustments for accessibility, some of its buildings are very old and some adjustments cannot be made. Every effort is made for the site to be accessible including rooming of classes downstairs and stair lifts to accommodate some of the more inaccessible stairs.

(Please see Presdales School Accessibility Plan)

Presdales School Admission Policy

Presdales is a comprehensive school with six forms of entry. It is an all ability school and children will NOT be admitted with reference to their aptitude or ability.

The admission of students with an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the *Special Educational Needs Code of Practice January 2015*. 'Under the Education Act 1996 the

trustees are obliged by law to admit any child with an EHCP where this school is named in the Plan.'

(Please see Presdales School Admissions Arrangements, Equality and Diversity Plan, and the Accessibility Plan)

Students with medical conditions

Presdales in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014 will make arrangements to support all students with medical conditions. Individual Health Care Plans are completed by the family and it is the family's responsibility to keep the school fully informed of medical needs or changes to medical needs. Where a student has a SEND need as well as a medical need then the Assistant Heads KS3 and KS4, named medical support person and the SENCo will work together to ensure health care plans are in place and the first aid team are fully aware and trained for the medical needs.

(Please see Supporting Students at School with Medical Conditions Policy)

Roles and Responsibilities

Presdales has a designated SENCo who is a qualified teacher appointed by the board of trustees and holds the National SENCo Award. The SENCo has day to day responsibility for the coordination and operation of SEND provision made to support individual students with SEND, including those who have a Statement of Educational Needs or an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCPs).

The SENCo is responsible for guiding and advising staff so they are confident in the delivery of lessons to students with SEND as well as working closely with parents/carers and outside agencies. The SENCo is aware of the provision in the Hertfordshire County Local Offer, so that they can work with professionals to give advice and support to all involved.

The SENCo will advise all staff on the graduated response to providing SEND support, advise on the deployment of support staff and resources and will keep records of all students with SEND up to date. They will work with other educational establishments to ensure smooth transition of students coming from or going to other educational institutions or employment.

The SENCo is the line manager for any Teaching Assistants (TAs). They are also responsible for the analysis of progress of all students with SEND, and the impact of any intervention strategies which are deemed appropriate.

The SENCo arranges Exam Access Arrangements (EAA) assessments and works alongside the Exams Officer to ensure that exam access arrangements comply with the JCQ exam council.

The role of the subject teachers

Subject teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and the development of students in their class. It is their role to deliver high quality teaching, adapted for individual students. Subject teachers are provided with pupil passports created by the SEND team, in conjunction with the parents/carers and/or students, which will enable each teacher to provide appropriate provision in their classroom. Subject teachers also have copies of EHCPs so it is clear what provision is expected and what reasonable adjustments must be made for these

students. All teaching and support staff are also issued with an 'every lesson pupil passport', which includes a list of the top 12 most common strategies that teachers can implement in the classroom to ensure quality first teaching for all students.

Subject teachers make regular assessments of the progress of all students which will identify where progress is less than expected given the students' age and individual circumstances. This information is recorded a number of times a year as tracking point data and shared with Tutors, Heads of Year, the SENCo and the Senior Leadership Team. Subject leaders, including the SENCo, analyse data and report to their line managers where they will plan further intervention if required.

SEND identification

Students are placed on the SEND Tier system on entry if they have been identified in their primary school as having a special educational need, or if they join Presdales with a specialist report identifying this need. Students may also be put on the Tier system if after screening/assessments arranged by the SENCo a learning need is indicated. Students are only put on the SEND register if they require a period (short or long term) of targeted intervention following assessment/diagnosis. These students are in Tiers 3-5. Students in Tier 1 or 2 may have Exam Access Arrangements and/or a diagnosis but do not currently require targeted (small group or 1:1) intervention. All students on the Tier system are carefully monitored. During the year students may be moved on/off the SEND register following a review of targeted intervention.

Discussions will always be held with students, parents/carers and teachers to gather a fully rounded picture of specific needs. Before students enter Presdales information and data is gathered from students' feeder schools. If a student starts in Year 7 a member of the Senior Leadership Team organises for experienced staff, the Head of Year 7, and/or SENCo, to visit schools to meet with staff and the students. Transition forms are requested for all students so key information and data is gathered from primary feeder schools.

If the student is an in-year entry, meetings are held with the Head of Year unless there is an identified SEND need and then the SENCo is also present. If there is an identified SEND need from the previous school, the student will automatically be placed on the SEND Tier system.

All students are tested on arrival in Year 7: CAT4, scholastic reading and baseline testing for all subjects. This data along with information from the primary schools will begin to inform the SENCo about students' needs. Parents/carers will be informed if their child is identified as needing additional targeted support.

Normal school systems

All students at Presdales have access to a broad and balanced curriculum; all teaching staff have high expectations for their students and will set appropriate targets. Potential areas of difficulty should be identified and addressed straight away and teachers will plan lessons to address potential areas of difficulty and remove barriers to learning.

The school's objective is that all students reach their individual potential. The curriculum is organised to support the learning of all students including those with learning difficulties. The emphasis is on the development of basic English, Maths and communication skills within all

mainstream classes.

In Year 7, students are mostly taught in mixed ability teaching groups. However, in Maths students are typically set on arrival using KS2 data which is reviewed at the end of the first half-term, following their first assessment. Groupings are fluid and students can move between sets as appropriate. In English, Accelerated Reader Star tests, Reading Plus and KS2 data are used to allocate students to one of two broad streams after half term. Classes in stream 2 are smaller and provide more support for developing basic literacy skills. In Year 8, students are set in Science, French and their other modern foreign language, and in Year 9, for English.

Where possible, subjects run lunchtime or after school surgeries and students will be invited to attend these surgeries if they are off track on their tracking point reports or just if they would like more support. A list of these surgeries is on the extracurricular timetable which is available on the website.

All year groups are asked to attend one parent consultation evening a year and a parent/carer information evening at the beginning of the academic year.

Whole school approach to teaching students with SEND

Presdales ensures all students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, including high quality teaching where reasonable adjustments are made so barriers to learning are removed.

High quality teaching at Presdales is when a teacher knows their students' strengths, weaknesses and their individual needs. Staff set clear objectives, deliver differentiated lessons, and remember that it is not just about completing a task but about the progress and learning that is taking place. Teachers will have confidence to use alternative teaching styles to support students' different learning styles.

High quality teaching at Presdales is when teachers make full use of assessment for learning, looking carefully at what students have achieved and their knowledge before moving on. Teachers at Presdales are committed to evaluating their performance and sharing best practice to ensure that students are engaged in their learning leading to ongoing progress being made by all.

SEND provision-a graduated response to SEND support

A student may be identified as having special educational needs and disabilities by their primary schools, parents/carers, subject teachers, form tutors or by the SENCo.

Presdales follows the 'assess, plan, do, review' cycle:

1. Problems identified in school are monitored by subject teachers and quality first teaching including clear learning outcomes for individual students, clear adaptations where needed and subject based intervention.
2. If progress is still not being made the subject teachers will approach the SENCo with their concerns to seek advice.
3. After a specified period, the SENCo and subject leader will assess the progress.
4. If progress and attainment is continuing to cause a concern, then further assessment

may be carried out by the SENCo.

5. If progress is still not being made or is below expectations the SENCo may make referrals with appropriate outside agencies.

Throughout the process above students are fully involved using a student centered approach and parents/carers will be informed after step four that progress of their child is causing significant concern.

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Typical support available is:

- Access to specialist equipment if required, including chromebooks and electronic readers. A student can bring their own laptop to school if they have been allocated one as part of their access arrangement for examinations. All students in Years 12 and 13 are permitted to use a laptop in lessons but may not necessarily have this provision in exams.
- Touch-typing and computer reader classes are available for students using laptops for exam access arrangements
- Modification of work if required
- Lunch time clubs to encourage interests and social skills as well as giving some students a 'safe place'
- Pastoral support
- Organisational support to develop student's independence and study skills
- TA support if deemed appropriate
- Sixth formers support in lessons

Parents/carers and students are kept informed of all provision deemed appropriate through pupil passports and/or correspondence home and it is always discussed with parents/carers and students prior to them starting any targeted intervention programme. Parents/carers can contact the SENCo or any member of the teaching staff via the phone and/or email, meetings can also be arranged.

Key Stage 4

In Key Stage 4 all students are expected to follow courses leading to GCSE and other recognised qualifications. Core subjects are set according to ability and students with special educational needs are advised on appropriate courses.

Teaching Assistants: additional support

Presdales employ an Assistant SENCo and a team of seven Teaching Assistants (TAs) and a SEND administrator, who are line managed by the SENCo. Study support lessons are also available to students with greatest need in order to fulfill a range of outcomes: reduced curriculum load, increased time to complete homework and coursework, additional core subject practice, revision. Teaching Assistants sometimes also provide targeted support

during Supervised Study lessons or form times.

Educational Health and Care plans

Students who have EHC plans have been identified at county level of having the highest level of SEND need. They are reviewed every year and reports and assessments are gathered by the SENCo from the subject teachers, students, parents/carers and any relevant specialist agency. All paperwork is sent to those involved two weeks before the review meeting.

At the review meeting the SENCo, student, parents/carers and where possible any relevant specialists are present (whether face to face or remotely). The progress of the student is discussed and changes to the EHCP are agreed.

The support of all students on the SEND register is regularly reviewed. Students in Tiers 4 and 5 are monitored using the assess, plan, do and review model and if a Tier 4 student continues not to make expected progress the school or parents/carers may consider making an EHCP request. This will be a joint application with the school and the parents/carers and is led by the SENCo. Support and guidance will be offered throughout the process by the SENCo.

Managing students on the SEND register

All students are monitored regularly through the school's periodic monitoring system, and grades and effort scores are sent home. Pupil passports are reviewed when appropriate and students. All subject teachers are involved in the review process; the SEND team are responsible for collating the reviews and issuing a new pupil passport.

The level of provision is decided by the SENCo after communication with subject teachers, parents/carers and students. If Presdales decides that it is unable to fully meet the student's needs through its own provision programme then the SENCo, after discussions with parents/carers and students, will make a referral to the appropriate Hertfordshire agency.

The codes used for SEND need are in line with the SEND Code of Practice (January 2015):

N: No SEND support- students have previously been on a SEND code

K: SEND support (school is putting in targeted support beyond class differentiation and quality first teaching, a pupil passport has been written and students have exam access arrangements. Students on the SEND register are in Tiers 3-5.)

E: An Educational Health and Care Plan is in place

Collaboration

Students and parents/carers are kept informed of every step, they are invited to meetings and everyone's views are considered important. Presdales values every member of its school community and at these discussions the student's strengths and difficulties are discussed, students' and parents'/carers' concerns are listened to before next steps and outcomes are agreed upon by all involved.

Record keeping and monitoring

All information, including reports from agencies, letters, assessment information and access

arrangements are kept in students' files in the SENCo's office in locked cabinets. Information is kept for all the time the student is at Presdales, if the student moves to another school information will be forwarded on request.

At the end of KS4 or KS5 when the student leaves Presdales the files are kept for one year in the SENCo's files, then after one year they are archived within the school premises.

The SIMS SEND and Edukey portals also contain information about a student's SEND status, description of their need, and electronic copies of pupil passports and any external agencies reports.

Monitoring of provision... how do we do this?

The SENCo, subject leaders and the Senior Leadership Team monitor SEND provision by lesson observation and student shadowing. The SENCo meets with her line manager every week to discuss provision within the school and all subject leaders meet with their line manager every two weeks (one week for core subjects) in order to continually improve the teaching provision for students with SEND. Periodically the SENCo arranges targeted reviews to assess the provision that is currently being offered.

Working together with outside agencies

If a student is causing concern academically or emotionally and socially further assessment advice can be gained from outside agencies including the Educational Psychology Service (EP), Speech and Language Therapy (SALT), Occupational Therapy (OT), Physiotherapy, Low Incidence team in Visual Impairment and Hearing Impairment, (VI and HI), medical services including local hospitals, Physical and Neurological Impairment (PNI), the Speech, Language, Communication and Autism team (SLCA), social workers, Services for Young People and the school nurse. In addition, the SENCo may contact the AskSali team who can provide advice on further strategies to implement. Amwell Outreach Service includes a secondary outreach worker. DSPL3 support includes a SEND family support worker and a limited amount of funded therapeutic support. They also manage the process for LHNF (Local High Needs Funding) which allows schools to apply for funding for students with emerging needs.

Parents/carers and students are involved throughout the whole process and will be invited to meet with the professionals prior to or after the assessment as well as receiving a copy of the written report.

Transition

Prior to starting Year 7 Presdales provides extra school visits for students identified as requiring additional support with transition to a secondary school environment. The SENCo is available to meet any Year 5 or 6 parent whose child has an EHC plan. Parents whose child is currently on SEND support can speak to the SENCo at the Secondary Transfer evening.

All Year 9 & 11 SEND students will have a 1-1 meeting with Services for Young People to discuss school, college or employment choices at Year 11.

Colleges may be invited to EHCP reviews, and Presdales ensures all SEND and exam access information is passed on.

Students who wish to stay on to Presdales sixth form must meet the sixth form criteria and individual subject criteria. Students with an EHC plan may name Presdales but they still have to meet the sixth form and subject criteria. Attendance of all sixth form lessons is vital in order to meet the rigorous demands of the A-level curriculum.

(Please see Presdales School Admissions)

Children in specific circumstances

- Ms Sylvia Jennings is the Designated Teacher for Looked after Children.
- Ms Kate Chandler is the Designated Lead for Child Protection
- Mrs Sara Miller, Miss Olivia Turner, , Mrs Yeoman and Mr Warren are the Deputy Designated Leads for Child Protection.

Roles and responsibilities

- The SENCo is Ms Laura Hussey. Ms Hussey has been a SENCo since September 2016. She has successfully completed the National Award for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (NASENCO)
- The SEND Trustee is Mr Howard Freed. The SEND Information Report is accessible on the school website under policies and this is reviewed annually
- The role of our Teaching Assistants is to support students' learning in class as planned and directed by the subject teacher. The SENCo is the line manager for the TAs.
- Ms Sylvia Jennings is the Designated Teacher for CLA and Pupil Premium
- Dr Lynn Cook is the HCP coordinator.

Safeguarding

Presdales aims to create a non-threatening environment to ensure all students are safe. The school will endeavour to develop a community of tolerance and respect.

An excellent pastoral care system is in place led by the Deputy Head Pastoral and Assistant Heads Pastoral KS3 and KS4. They are supported by the Head of Sixth Form and Heads of Year 7-13 and the individual form tutors. There is a Big Sister/Big Brother programme whereby Sixth Form students are attached to the Year 7 and Year 8 forms to support students. The school employs its own professional counsellor, who is also responsible for supervising 4 trainee counsellors. The school is further supported by a wellbeing practitioner from the Broxbourne and Hoddesdon Mental Health Support Team and also the Hertford and Ware and surrounding villages family support team.

(Please see Presdales School policies on Anti-Bullying, Child Protection, Pupil Premium and Mental Health and Wellbeing.)

Training

All staff, including TAs, have annual appraisals when their performance is reviewed and targets are set for the forthcoming year. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities are discussed for the coming year at this meeting.

The SENCo liaises with Form Teachers, Subject Leaders and Assistant Heads KS3 and KS4 to

ensure training and information is available. INSET and training for staff is planned for by the SENCo. Departments are expected to develop strategies for students with learning difficulties.

Funding and Resources

SEND support is funded through the central budget, which is not ring fenced, except for banded funding for some students with EHC plans. The school uses its budget to fund specialist resources, exam arrangements and provide TAs in class if deemed appropriate.

SEND Information Report

Presdales School SEND Information report details the provision in place and this is reviewed annually with staff, parents/carers who form the SEND Think Tank and trustees.

www.presdales.herts.sch.uk/the-school/special-educational-needs--disabilities.

Please see the Hertfordshire Local Offer:

www.hertsdirect.org/localoffer

Reviewing the policy

The SEND policy will be reviewed annually by the SENCo, the Senior Leadership Team and Board of Trustees.

Related legislation:

Equality Act 2010: Advice for schools

Reasonable adjustments for disabled students (2012) Supporting students at school with medical conditions (2014) Working together to safe guard children (2013)

The Children Act (1989)

The Mental Capacity Act (2005)