

1.2 LEARNING SUPPORT/ESOL/READING RECOVERY POLICY

Definition

"Learning Support is the provision of extra assistance, adapted programmes or learning environments, specialised equipment or materials to support students with accessing the curriculum in a range of settings"

Rationale

Children with special needs are entitled to equal and appropriate educational opportunities through the school system.

At PDS we aim to provide a curriculum that is appropriate to the needs and abilities of all our children in accordance with NAG1.

Some children achieve at a lower level than expected for their age in relation to the national curriculum and may be identified as having a specific or general learning difficulty. Additionally, social, emotional and behavioural needs may affect the learning of some individual students and support is provided in a responsive manner.

We recognise that these children have needs that are catered for within the classroom and also through small group and individual programmes. Individual Education Plans and Individual Behaviour Plans provide additional negotiated guidance for staff.

These needs may also be met using outside agencies or providers.

We plan our learning and teaching in this way to enable each child to reach the highest level of personal attainment.

Purposes/Objectives

To ensure:

1. early identification of special needs and implementation of appropriate intervention. (Special Needs Register)
2. teachers are supported in meeting special needs
3. partnership between school/home
4. there is documentation of referrals

Guidelines

- Syndicate leaders and SenCo share responsibility for co-ordinating the identification and intervention process.
- All teachers are aware of, and follow the identification and intervention process.
- All teachers and teacher aides have the opportunity to participate in appropriate professional development to meet their needs.
- Consultation with parents/caregivers is ongoing.
- Referral to outside agencies can be made if appropriate (co-ordinated through SenCo).
-

Appendix 1: Implementation (Learning Support)

STAFF

Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SenCo):	Michele Simpson
English as a Second Language (ESOL) & Learning Support (Middle/Senior School):	Helen Grant (on study leave 2008 - Gianluca Watson acting)
Reading Recovery:	Gianluca Watson

Refer Job Descriptions for these positions

Appendix 2 OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Resource Teacher: Learning & Behaviour (RTLB)

On-going Reviewable Resource (ORRS) GSE

Sunnydene School (Special Needs Resource School): GSE

- Itinerant service currently providing 0.1 for each of our ORRS students

Speech Language Teacher (SLT):

Supplementary Learning Support Teacher (SLS):GSE

Correspondence School:

- Currently provide elements of programme where applicable for 3 children with severe learning deficiencies.

Moderate Needs

APPENDIX 3

LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAMMES Provided by PDS

a) Rainbow Reading

Rainbow Reading is a cornerstone in PDS Junior School for literacy learning support. It is an audio-assisted programme that enables children to work independently at their own instructional reading level, with the assistance of a teacher aide.

b) Learning Support Teacher

Supports small groups of on a needs basis (in liaison with classroom teachers)

For instance Year 6 literacy group

Year 3-5 Grammar focus

Refer to Learning Support/ESOL/Reading Recovery Teacher Jon

Description

c) Teacher Aides

PDS currently has 7 teacher aides (April 2008) working with individuals or small groups throughout the school. Some children have as little as 1.5 hrs/week t/a time to upwards of 15 hours per week (both ORRS and School funded). Staffing of the Rainbow Reading programme is also undertaken by teacher aides. Refer to the current timetable for programmes and the teacher aide job descriptions.

d) Reading Recovery

PDS currently supports 3 children at any one time with individual half hourly lessons. These children are identified by the junior department using the 6 year net.

N.B Learning Support Register

Junior/Middle/Senior

The Learning Support Register is a frequently updated document identifying all students at PDS currently engaged in a learning support programme. It also includes children that may have been involved in a learning support programme and are being monitored.

Signed _____ BOT Chair Sept 2008