



**Policy Name: SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITIES POLICY**

**Policy Date:** 8 December 2016

**Revised on:** 19 December 2017

**1. RATIONALE**

To communicate to (prospective) parents, students, staff and wider community about the available SEND procedures, accommodations and modifications at Dubai Arabian American Private School to meet the needs of SEND students.

**2. SCOPE**

**THE SCHOOLS VISION AND MISSION**

**VISION:** Empowering students to be successful today, equipped for tomorrow and lifelong learners.

**MISSION:** Dubai Arabian American School will collaboratively involve students, parents, educators and essential components of the community to ensure students' success today. We will prepare students for tomorrow by integrating critical thinking and social responsibility, developing their problem solving and reasoning skills, and boost their self-confidence. Our students will become lifelong learners through active learning and their engagement with their environments, which is stimulating, promotes cultural diversity and treasures everyone's heritage.

### **3. POLICY STATEMENT**

#### **AIMS OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES POLICY**

- a) To identify children with SEND as early as possible through referral, observation, assessment and admission procedures.
- b) To ensure that SEND students have equal access to a holistic, systemic form of education.
- c) To work with management in formulating an accessible curriculum for all students.
- d) To continually liaise with section supervisors and class teachers to ensure that SEND students' lessons are modified and differentiated according to their specific needs.
- e) To provide information to class teachers about SEND students, their difficulties and recommend strategies for their educational provision, sharing examples of good practice.
- f) To use Individual Education Plans to inform all relevant parties about the targets that have been set and how to implement a program and strategies that will benefit and promote progress for the student concerned.
- g) To continually monitor the progress of all students with SEND.
- h) To advise on areas that requires improvement with regards to our students.
- i) To ensure that parents are involved in their child's learning and gain an understanding of their Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- j) To involve children in the development and review of their Individual Education Plans.
- k) To liaise with outside agencies when appropriate.

l) To offer support to staff who may need assistance with differentiation and building appropriate in-class strategies.

#### **4. EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

The evaluation and review of the SEND Policy Document will take place annually in the month of December. This review will be done by the SENDCO in consultation with the Principal and Vice Principals of DAAS.

#### **5. DEFINITIONS**

##### **DEFINITION OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES**

Children have special educational needs and disabilities 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
- c) are under compulsory school age and fall within the definition at (a) or (b) above or would so do if special educational provision was not made for them.

**Children must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught.**

*Special educational provision means:*

For children of two or over, educational provision which is additional to, or otherwise different from, the educational provision made generally for children of their age in schools, other than special schools, in the area.

*SENDCO:*

"SENDCO" stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator.

A SENDCO is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school's SEN policy.

*Learning Support Assistant (LSA):*

A Learning Support Assistant (LSA) is also often referred to as a shadow teacher in the context of Dubai Arabian American School. The Learning Support Assistant (LSA) is provided by the parent, to assist their child in the classroom or wherever teaching and learning is taking place during school hours.

## **7. EFFECTIVE AND REVISION DATES**

The SEND Policy has been in effect as of 8 December 2016. It has recently been revised on the 19 December 2017 and the next date for review will be in December 2018.