**Guidance for Special Schools**

The June 2014 draft edition of the Code of Practice, Chapter 6 relates to the duties placed on schools. Below are some of the points in the Code of Practice relating to schools and full information can be accessed in this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/325875/SEND-Code_of_Practice-June2014.pdf>

 **6 Schools**

**What this chapter covers**

This chapter applies mostly to mainstream schools. The Equality Act duties described under ‘Equality and inclusion’ and the duty to publish an SEN information report under ‘Publishing information: SEN information report’ apply to special schools, as do schools’ duties in respect of EHC needs assessments and plans (Chapter 9 – Education, Health and Care needs assessments and plans). The chapter explains the action that mainstream schools should take to meet their duties in relation to identifying and supporting all children with special educational needs (SEN) whether or not they have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

**Publishing information: SEN information report**

6.79 The governing bodies of maintained schools and maintained nursery schools and the proprietors of academy schools **must** publish information on their websites about the implementation of the governing body’s or the proprietor’s policy for pupils with SEN. The information published should be updated annually and any changes to the information occurring during the year should be updated as soon as possible. The information required is set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 and **must** include information about:

• the kinds of SEN that are provided for

• policies for identifying children and young people with SEN and assessing their needs, including the name and contact details of the SENCO (mainstream schools)

• arrangements for consulting parents of children with SEN and involving them in their child’s education

• arrangements for consulting young people with SEN and involving them in their education

• arrangements for assessing and reviewing children and young people’s progress towards outcomes. This should include the opportunities available to work with parents and young people as part of this assessment and review

• arrangements for supporting children and young people in moving between phases of education and in preparing for adulthood. As young people prepare for adulthood outcomes should reflect their ambitions, which could include higher education, employment, independent living and participation in society

• the approach to teaching children and young people with SEN

• how adaptations are made to the curriculum and the learning environment of children and young people with SEN

* the expertise and training of staff to support children and young people with SEN, including how specialist expertise will be secured
* evaluating the effectiveness of the provision made for children and young people with SEN

• how children and young people with SEN are enabled to engage in activities available with children and young people in the school who do not have SEN

• support for improving emotional and social development. This should include extra pastoral support arrangements for listening to the views of children and young people with SEN and measures to prevent bullying

• how the school involves other bodies, including health and social care bodies, local authority support services and voluntary sector organisations, in meeting children and young people’s SEN and supporting their families

• arrangements for handling complaints from parents of children with SEN about the provision made at the school

 6.80 The above should include arrangements for supporting children and young people who are looked after by the local authority and have SEN.

6.81 Schools should ensure that the information is easily accessible by young people and parents and is set out in clear, straightforward language. It should include information on the school’s SEN policy and named contacts within the school for situations where young people or parents have concerns. It should also give details of the school’s contribution to the Local Offer and **must** include information on where the local authority’s Local Offer is published.

**Top tips for presenting your Offer**

Think about the wide audience who may want to access your Local Offer:

* use short, bite-size sentences or paragraphs to convey your information
* include **direct** links to other information sources where further detail or investigation would be recommended, like a service referral form
* wherever you can, avoid using jargon, abbreviations or ‘professional speak’ - use plain English
* ask an independent person to read the final version of your Offer (ideally a parent or carer) to make sure it is clear, before you upload it to the website.