



INCORPORATING



# SEND Information Report

## 2021-2022

The Learn to Live Federation consists of Bidwell Brook School and Ellen Tinkham School. Both schools are maintained special schools in Devon and form part of a Co-Operative Trust, the SENTient Trust, with eight other special schools.

The Learn to Live Federation has a clear approach to meeting the needs of learners with special educational needs and is supported by the Local Authority and the SENTient Trust to ensure that all learners, regardless of their specific needs, make the best possible progress in school. This SEN Information Report will be updated annually to reflect changes and plans within the school. The report states the current provision offered by the Learn to Live Federation. Admissions to the school are in line with our Admissions Policy which is published on school websites. More detail on our commitment to high quality educational provision for all our learners is detailed in our Curriculum Policy.

<p><b>What types of Special Educational needs Learn to Live Federation provides for?</b></p>	<p>Both Bidwell Brook School and Ellen Tinkham School are Local Authority funded Foundation Special Schools.</p> <p>All learners attending have either severe or profound learning difficulties. Many also have physical, sensory or behavioural additional needs, including autism.</p>
<p><b>How do we assess and review learners' progress towards outcomes, including opportunities to work with families and learners as part of this assessment and review?</b></p>	<p>Every learner has an Education Health and Care Plan, which is reviewed annually at a Review meeting.</p> <p>During this review parents, teachers, professionals and the learner discuss the learner's progress and set actions for the following year. The Learn to Live Federation uses a range of different assessment systems to support the varying needs and ages of its learners. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and KS1;</li> <li>• Core Curriculum for learners in KS2, 3 and 4, with some KS3 &amp; KS4 learners working on an Engagement Model Curriculum rather than the Core Curriculum, depending on pathway and progress;</li> <li>• Home School Agreement Targets (HSAT) – bespoke assessment system for all learners. Targets are discussed at the Annual Review Meeting and subsequent termly parent meetings. Parents are encouraged to work on the targets at home, alongside the school. Targets are set in areas of need bespoke to the learner such as independence, communication or social skills. Progress for each target is tracked throughout the year and learner progress data collected and monitored via Evidence for Learning;</li> <li>• Pearson's qualifications at Entry Level in Functional English, Maths and ICT at KS4 and KS5.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Who is our Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCO) and how can he/she be contacted?</b></p>	<p>As special schools, we do not have a named SENCO. If you require any further information, please contact the schools directly:</p> <p>Bidwell Brook tel: 01803 864120 email: <a href="mailto:admin@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk">admin@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk</a></p> <p>Ellen Tinkham - Hollow Lane (Primary) tel: 01392 467168 email: <a href="mailto:school@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk">school@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk</a></p>

	<p>Ellen Tinkham – Wayside Crescent (Secondary)  tel: 01392 482533  email: <a href="mailto:college@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk">college@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk</a></p> <p>If your concern is about the safety of a child, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads:  Stella Wood, Head of School at Bidwell Brook School  <a href="mailto:swood@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk">swood@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk</a>  Katy Bradley, Head of School at Ellen Tinkham, Hollow Lane  <a href="mailto:kbardley@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk">kbardley@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk</a>  Monika Davis, Head of College at Ellen Tinkham, Wayside Crescent  <a href="mailto:mdavis@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk">mdavis@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk</a></p> <p>In their absence, please contact Nikki Burroughs, Executive Head  <a href="mailto:nburroughs@learntolivefederation.co.uk">nburroughs@learntolivefederation.co.uk</a></p>
<p><b>What is our approach to teaching learners with Special Educational Needs?</b></p>	<p>Our approach includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• being committed to high achievement, effective teaching and learning, and good relationships;</li> <li>• listening to each other, celebrate each other's strengths, acknowledge weaknesses, and foster a climate of kindness and co-operation;</li> <li>• empowering our learners and giving opportunities to participate in a more inclusive school, and in the wider community;</li> <li>• presenting a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes learners' holistic development and enhances their self-esteem;</li> <li>• ensuring all staff support and manage learners effectively and respectfully achieving high standards of work, discipline and courtesy;</li> <li>• ensuring all National Curriculum and statutory curriculum guidance is delivered to all learners;</li> <li>• providing quality first teaching which is delivered using a Total Communication approach;</li> <li>• providing a wide range of age-appropriate learning experiences which are exciting and challenging;</li> <li>• providing personalised provision with adapted resources and interventions;</li> <li>• having staff who have appropriate training and skills;</li> <li>• ensuring secure and appropriate learning environments;</li> <li>• promoting the learners' spiritual, physical and emotional well-being;</li> <li>• promoting independence and decision making;</li> <li>• treating everyone with dignity and respect;</li> <li>• ensuring ICT enhances the curriculum and communication for all learners;</li> <li>• providing a holistic approach to provision of therapy;</li> <li>• celebrating relationships with parents and families;</li> <li>• celebrating communication at every level;</li> <li>• ensuring safeguarding is effective, to keep all school members safe, including E-safety.</li> </ul>

<p><b>How are adaptations made to the curriculum and learning environment of learners with SEN?</b></p>	<p>At both Bidwell Brook School and Ellen Tinkham School, we see each learner as an individual. We are very proud of our schools and constantly strive towards providing a stimulating and challenging environment for all our learners to “be the best that they can be”. The curriculum is reviewed to ensure it is in line with statutory guidance and any new regulations. Learn to Live Federation provides a curriculum that is primarily led by individual outcomes. The curriculum is relevant, broad and promotes independence, as well as enabling learners to become functional in literacy, numeracy and communication. For some learners, therapeutic interventions comprise a significant part of their curriculum. Learning environments may be adapted by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring Total Communication happens at all times;</li> <li>• creating groups that target specific needs in order to make progress;</li> <li>• incorporating differentiated resources and teaching styles;</li> <li>• making appropriate choices of texts and topics to suit the learner;</li> <li>• providing additional adult support;</li> <li>• offering individualised timetables that allow for sensory breaks/regulation activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do we consult parents of learners with SEN and involve them in their child’s education?</b></p>	<p>The Learn to Live Federation believes parents have a right to be viewed as partners in the education of their child and therefore we operate an ‘open door’ policy.</p> <p>Our arrangements include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• initial visits to school;</li> <li>• introductory meetings;</li> <li>• regular newsletters;</li> <li>• parent workshops and training;</li> <li>• coffee mornings;</li> <li>• Parent Governor opportunities;</li> <li>• parent involvement in consultations;</li> <li>• home/school diaries/email/SchoolComms correspondence;</li> <li>• parents meeting/structured conversations/parent forums;</li> <li>• annual report to families;</li> <li>• person centred reviews;</li> <li>• parental questionnaires ie Reading, Online Safety.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do we consult learners with SEN and involve them in their education?</b></p>	<p>In the Learn to Live Federation, we always put our learners first. All learners are treated with dignity and respect. We embrace a person-centred approach to our curriculum for every learner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• learner voice;</li> <li>• School Council</li> <li>• person centred reviews;</li> <li>• Listen to Me booklets;</li> <li>• advocacy support;</li> <li>• careers hub;</li> <li>• Preparing for Adulthood agenda;</li> <li>• individualised targets;</li> <li>• Champions for Change;</li> <li>• communication profiles;</li> <li>• working closely with the NHS to help inform GPs about their patient with autism and learning disabilities.</li> </ul>

<p><b>What support is available for improving overall well-being of our learners at the Learn to Live Federation?</b></p>	<p>Our ethos focuses on how we model and teach young people the values, language, strategies and skills to develop the supportive relationships that are essential for a physically and emotionally safe learning culture. We teach the strategies and skills young people need to ask for help for themselves or others.</p> <p>A comprehensive, progressive PSHE education programme is at the heart of the curriculum, promoting wellbeing and the entitlement of every child. We have devised an assessment system that measures impact of how learners manage their feelings, their self-confidence and how they are able to make relationships.</p> <p>Learners are supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an Anti-Bullying Policy that is understood and implemented by all staff;</li> <li>• some learners have Positive Behaviour Support Plans and Intimate Care Plans;</li> <li>• all learners have Communication Passports, One Page Profiles and Individual Risk Assessments;</li> <li>• a robust Safeguarding Policy and Intimate Care Policy;</li> <li>• personal care conducted discreetly and with dignity, fostering independence where possible;</li> <li>• close working relationship with Devon’s Children with Disabilities Team;</li> <li>• staff trained in a range of support packages including attachment disorder, forest school etc;</li> <li>• targeted support for individual learners eg Lego Therapy;</li> <li>• School Council;</li> <li>• advocacy Support for learners;</li> <li>• Communication &amp; Decision-Making Team, which provides support and advise in meetings learners social and emotional needs;</li> <li>• Breakfast Club.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What expertise and training do our staff have to support learners with SEN?</b></p>	<p>At both Federation Schools, we have access through external professional agencies to Speech &amp; Language Therapy services, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists who work across our school sites to provide personalised learning programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the schools have a Specialist Community Public Health Nurse and employed Nursing Assistants. They work closely with parents, carers and staff to assist in promoting the health and wellbeing of our learners with complex nursing needs;</li> <li>• we also have visiting specialists such as the Orthoptist. Learners who may have additional sensory impairments will receive input from the Authority’s peripatetic services for the Hearing Impaired (HI) and Visually Impaired (VI);</li> <li>• we also work closely with other professionals such as paediatricians, bladder and bowel specialists, dentists and the Immunisation Team who all run clinics at the school.</li> </ul> <p>A core training programme related to work as a Teaching Assistant or Teacher is provided.</p> <p>Training is specifically related to the needs of learners in our schools. Teachers undergo regular CPD training. All staff have clear job descriptions which detail required qualifications for each post.</p>

<p><b>How will we secure equipment and facilities to support learners with SEN?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• as special schools, the resources we have available to us are focused on learners with special educational needs;</li> <li>• all our school buildings are fully accessible;</li> <li>• we look to enable the environment to be supportive of learners' communication and sensory needs;</li> <li>• each school uses its own budget to provide the majority of resources and facilities that are needed;</li> <li>• some specific resources come via other agencies ie equipment such as standing or walking frames etc;</li> <li>• Devon County Council Support Services;</li> <li>• Charities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How does the governing body involve other stakeholders including Health and Social Services, Local Authority and Voluntary Organisations, in meeting the needs of learners with SEN and their families?</b></p>	<p>The Governors are aware of the wide range of staff working together within the Federation to support our learners and their families. Some staff are employed directly by the Federation; others have different lines of management as can be seen below. The Learn to Live Federation works closely with visiting professionals to provide consistency in approaches. There is monitoring of practice to ensure learners' needs are met.</p> <p>All classroom and administrative staff are employed directly by the Federation.</p> <p>School-based Nurses, Learning Disability Nurses, Physiotherapists, Speech &amp; Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and CAMHS staff are NHS employees.</p> <p>Behaviour Support, Advisory Teachers and Educational Psychologists are employees of Babcock LDP. They provide staff training and advice on individual needs. Multi-Sensory Workers (MSWs) are also employees of Babcock LDP. They provide one-on-one support to individual children as specified in their EHCPs.</p> <p>Transport to school is provided by the Local Authority, not the school. Transport staff are employed by the Transport Companies. There are Social Workers for learners with additional needs based within the Children with Disabilities Team. In addition, we have links with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clinical commissioning groups;</li> <li>• the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board and the Immunisation Team who all run clinics at the school;</li> <li>• therapy departments;</li> <li>• Multidisciplinary Safeguarding Hub (MASH);</li> <li>• Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do we evaluate the effectiveness of our SEN provision?</b></p>	<p>The schools have robust monitoring in place to evaluate its effectiveness through a variety of processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• teaching and learning is discussed weekly during Teaching &amp; Learning (T&amp;L) Senior Leadership meetings;</li> <li>• Senior Leaders in all settings regularly partake in informal 'dip-ins', which informs T&amp;L Senior Leaders to signpost Teachers and/or Teaching Assistants to models/areas of good practice; highlight complacency or poor performance and provide support;</li> <li>• a T&amp;L monitoring cycle is in place that is ongoing throughout the year;</li> <li>• data is gathered termly and scrutinised by both Senior and Middle Leaders;</li> <li>• all stakeholders are involved with the development of the Federation Development &amp; Innovation Plan;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• parent and learner voice is paramount in its development and taken from ‘what’s working/what’s not working’ elements of the Person Centred Review process;</li> <li>• Governors monitor the developments through their monitoring cycle;</li> <li>• the Federation also purchases external monitoring to provide Governors with an independent view of both schools and the Executive Head’s performance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do we handle complaints from parents of children with SEN about provision made at the school?</b></p>	<p>If you have any concerns about your child’s progress or welfare, please get in touch in the first instance with the Head of School at each site. The Learn to Live Federation also has a Complaints Policy which can be found on our websites.</p>
<p><b>Who can young people contact if they have concerns?</b></p>	<p>Learners may raise a concern with their Class Advocate, their Teacher or indeed any adult with whom they may have a good relationship. Senior Leaders, including the Executive Head are visible and known to learners.</p>
<p><b>What support services are available to parents?</b></p>	<p>Within both schools, we have a Support Services team who act as liaison between the school staff, families and all other agencies such as social services, educational psychologists, CSW and many more.</p> <p>For further information contact <a href="https://devonias.org.uk/support">devonias.org.uk/support</a></p>
<p><b>Where can the LA’s local offer be found? How have we contributed to it?</b></p>	<p>For information relating to SEN, please see Devon’s Local Offer: <a href="https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send-local-offer">https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send-local-offer</a></p> <p>Contributions to the SEND Local Offer are made via Champions for Change (learners), survey feedback and involvement with the Parent Carer Forum (families), membership of the Co-Production &amp; Engagement Workstream (staff) which feeds into the SEND Improvement Board chaired by the Head of Education within the Local Authority.</p>