



1.4 Vision and principles – The South Glos Way

Enabling children with SEND to achieve their potential and aspirations in a caring and supportive community.

Strategy for Children and Young People 0-25 years old with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in South Gloucestershire.

“I meet with my child’s teacher every term. This makes such a difference as together we agree what she is going to do in school and what I can do at home. This is really making a difference not only to what my son can do but his overall happiness and mine!”

- A South Glos parent

What is the South Glos Way?

The South Glos Way defines the way in which we work individually and collectively to deliver the Vision for education, learning and skills in South Gloucestershire. It encompasses all of the best practice approaches that we will adopt across our education system to ensure that all children and young people have the opportunity to be successful. Together we will consider every aspect of our education offer and identify what we consider to be the most effective inclusive approach and then promote this as “The South Glos Way of doing things”.

We believe that all children and young people (CYP) can be successful and achieve their potential through access to high quality educational provision and support where there is a culture of high aspiration for all learners and a commitment to delivery of highly effective inclusive practice.

This commitment to inclusion will be woven through the delivery of all services. This means we will know and understand our communities so that the education on offer is relevant, accessible and engaging to all. Further, for those CYP who are at a disadvantage we will deliver what it takes, with partners when necessary, to overcome any barriers to learning.

To deliver this vision we will develop an education system where there is:

- A collective responsibility for all CYP;

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- Common understanding that South Glos will only be successful as a whole when we are all successful;
- A commitment to collaboration and sharing of best practice
- A high degree of school to school support and school-led delivery when this is the most effective approach;
- Agreement to use evidence-based approaches and practice-based evidence – what we know works
- System-wide agreement that to be effective we need efficient use of resources through services which deliver added value;
- Commitment to maximising the benefit of investment by paying back to the system through shared learning, capacity building and development of system wide expertise; and a
- Commitment to building positive relationships with students and understanding their individual needs.
- We know that accurate identification of need is paramount if schools and settings are to continue to build and develop high quality universal provision. School Hubs and SEN clusters will be vehicles to build and grow evidenced based good practice shared across the sector.

- Hilary Smith, Head of Education Learning and Skills, January 2020

During the autumn term 2019 and spring term 2020, parents and carers, Headteachers, school leaders, the Education Learning and Skills team and Integra discussed the South Glos Way and how we will know we are successful. We identified what was already in place and what needed to change. This followed on from work initiated by the Local Authority in partnership with Headteachers (July 2019) which agreed Guiding Principles for School Improvement and Inclusion.

School Improvement and Inclusion Charter:

- Common agreement on what constitutes inclusive educational high performance and where the best practice is
- Ethical Charter to guide our work with each other and with our schools, one that covers our values, ethics and purpose of role
- An Annual Priority that all school improvement services are connected to
- A Hub and Cluster model to support the self- sustaining school improvement model with a focus on training and inclusion
- Investment in leadership at LA Officer, school staff and pupil level

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- A commitment to being outward facing (beyond LA) and 'skilled up' in the latest practice, an engagement in academic research and learning from mistakes
- An investment of being speaking support and challenge with the pupils, families and the communities we serve

How will we know we are successful?

To be successful, South Glos parents and carers say:

- ✓ Children, young people and parents are happy
- ✓ More children and young people (CYP) are able to attend their school or setting full time with less CYP on part timetables
- ✓ Teachers and support staff fully understand the needs of children and young people
- ✓ All CYP thrive and make progress against all four areas of need
- ✓ Teachers are supported through high quality CPD and they feel successful and confident when teaching CYP with SEND
- ✓ Needs are identified early so CYP are supported throughout their school career and beyond
- ✓ Schools will be able to provide evidence that CYP have met SMART targets and 'assess, plan, do' process is reviewed and recorded
- ✓ When CYP get the right support at the right time
- ✓ When there are clear structures in schools and settings so that the needs of CYP are communicated clearly
- ✓ There is consistency in paperwork and templates ensuring that CYP and parents' voices are heard and recorded
- ✓ CYP and their parents feel they are central to and have influence in all processes to do with CYP's provision
- ✓ Preparing for adulthood outcomes are linked to the emotional, social and physical well-being of our children and are valued alongside attainment.
- ✓ Schools and settings make parents feel welcome, respected and equally valued. Any plan of support is agreed with parents with clearly defined outcomes.

To be successful, system leaders say:

- ✓ There are no permanent exclusions in any South Glos school or setting
- ✓ There are better educational outcomes throughout EYFS-KS5 for children identified at SEN Support

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- ✓ There is earlier and accurate identification of need at SEN Support so that CYP have planned, effective provision that meets their needs resulting in a reduction in requests for Education Health Care plans
- ✓ We meet the needs of CYP with behaviour that challenges in schools and greatly reduce the number of fixed term exclusions
- ✓ There are fewer CYP who are electively home educated (EHE)
- ✓ Following education and training young people transition to meaningful and sustainable employment

What is it like to be a child or young person growing up in South Gloucestershire and how do we make it better?

There is a relentless focus on this question in the [South Gloucestershire Children, Young People and Families partnership plan 2016-2020](#).

All children and young people in South Gloucestershire are unique and are entitled to an education that enables them to thrive. Children and young people should have a good start in life, be safe and do as well as they can, while being able to access support when necessary to make the very best progress. South Gloucestershire Council is committed to securing the highest outcomes for all children and young people including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We will work together to provide the very best START.

Safe

Thriving

Achieving and aspiring

Ready for the future

Together

We are committed to ensure that children and young people:

- achieve the best possible outcomes;
- grow in confidence and resilience
- feel listened to and are able communicate their own views
- make successful transitions, into school, between schools and into employment, further or higher education or training.
- Live fulfilling lives

The South Glos toolkit closely aligns with the [Strategy for Children and Young People 0-25 years old with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities](#) and is

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underpinned by the following six principles derived through listening to families and practitioners.

1. Communication

Communication runs through all the SEND priorities and key themes. We will listen and respond within agreed timescales and be honest with all our audiences.

2. Collective responsibility

Everyone plays a part in supporting and enabling children with SEND and their families to achieve their aspirations.

3. Being involved

The views and voice of children and their families are at the centre of everything we do, so that they feel listened to and involved in planning their future and in the co-design of local services.

4. Working in partnership

We will work in partnership across the local area with children and their families and agencies including education, health and social care and the voluntary sector to deliver better outcomes for children with SEND.

5. Feeling safe and valued

We want children to feel that they belong, are supported and are included within their community so that they can achieve a positive sense of wellbeing.

6. Ensuring financial transparency and equity

SEND budgets will be spent according to need and based on evidence of what provides the best outcomes for children. Provision and services will be jointly commissioned to ensure clear pathways between services whilst achieving financial sustainability.

In South Gloucestershire we want all our children and young people with SEND to achieve their very best including acquisition of the knowledge, skills and qualifications that they need for successful transition to the next stage of their journey.