



Knowle DGE
Academy

Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership
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SEND Offer 2024-2025

Procedure Reviewed by: Nicholas Field

Date: January 2025

To be reviewed: January 2026

Knowle DGE: Our Values and Ethos

At Knowle DGE, our staff and governors believe that every young person will DISCOVER new learning opportunities and experiences. We will GUIDE each student towards these opportunities, ensuring they ENJOY their learning journey.

To succeed, we encourage every individual in our Academy to develop BELIEF in themselves, aim higher, show RESPECT for themselves, others, and the Academy, and take RESPONSIBILITY for their decisions and actions.

We recognize that we are ALL EQUAL and deserve the very best. We acknowledge that we are ALL DIFFERENT in how we learn and interact. And we believe that we can ALL ACHIEVE TOGETHER—as an Academy community, as students within that community, and as parents and carers.

Knowle DGE Academy is part of the Bristol Local Offer, which can be found at: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/web/bristol-local-offer>.

Introduction

Knowle DGE is a Special Academy for pupils with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP). We are part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership and work closely with other academies within the Trust.

The Academy welcomes pupils from Key Stages 1 to 5 with a wide range of needs, including:

- Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) challenges
- Moderate Learning Difficulties
- Autism Spectrum Condition
- Speech, Language, and Communication Needs

Our Commitment

At Knowle DGE, we:

- Ensure all young people receive high-quality teaching
 - Provide a differentiated curriculum to meet individual needs
 - Monitor student progress and offer tailored support when needed
 - Offer personalised learning, including specialist advice, alternative timetables, and additional providers
 - Work closely with multi-agency teams to provide the best possible support
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Who Can I Speak to About My Child's Special Educational Needs?

All teaching and support staff are trained in meeting the needs of pupils with SEND.

Key Contacts:

- **Learning Facilitators** – Full-time staff who support students in class and lead intervention groups.
 - **Tutors** – Each student is assigned to a tutor group, and the tutor, alongside the Learning Facilitator, is the first point of contact for SEND concerns.
 - **Heads of School** – Responsible for Lower, Middle, and Upper School, overseeing student welfare and progress. They are available for meetings upon request.
 - **SENDCo** – A member of the Leadership Team responsible for coordinating SEND support, overseeing EHCPs, and ensuring high-quality provision.
 - **SEND Academy Councillor** – Ensures the Academy has an up-to-date SEND policy, appropriate provision, and reports on SEND matters to the Academy Council.
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How Is the Curriculum Matched to My Child's Needs?

The curriculum is **personalised** to support all learners. Teachers adapt work, support levels, and teaching styles to meet individual needs. Learning bases are designed to accommodate pupils with SEND, offering a range of courses from entry-level qualifications to GCSEs.

Inclusion in Activities and School Trips

All activities and school trips are open to every student. Financial assistance from Pupil Premium is available where needed.

For external activities, risk assessments ensure accessibility, and additional support (such as 1:1 assistance) can be arranged if necessary. Parents or carers may be invited to attend as extra support.

How Will I Know How Well My Child Is Doing?

Each student's progress is monitored both academically and against their EHCP outcomes. We use a process called PLIMS to support in creating targets (called coverage statements) and these directly relate to individual's EHCP.

- Tutors, subject teachers, or the SENDCo are available for discussions on progress.
 - A termly newsletter shares updates on upcoming events, achievements, and attendance.
 - Coffee mornings offer informal opportunities to check in on progress.
 - Personal Support Plans (PSPs) are updated two times a year, with parents/carers invited to contribute.
 - Parent/carers evenings take place in Term 2, with full reports sent home in Term 6.
 - Annual EHCP reviews include parent/carers participation.
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Specialist Services Available

Knowle DGE has access to a wide range of specialist services, including:

- Educational Psychologists
- CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)
- School Nursing Team
- Speech and Language Therapy

Within the Academy, trained staff provide:

- 1:1 academic interventions
 - Speech and language support
 - Therapeutic interventions
 - Group or individual Nurture sessions.
 - Knowle DGE also now have qualified Thrive practitioners
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Support for Wellbeing

- Each tutor and Learning Facilitator provides daily pastoral care.
 - A dedicated support team helps students develop emotional and social skills.
 - Every student participates in Ways of Wellbeing (WoW) lessons, covering:
 - Giving
 - Keep Learning
 - Be Healthy
 - Me in My Environment
 - Connect
 - The Academy holds a Nurture Kite Mark for its commitment to emotional wellbeing, with trained practitioners leading social development sessions.
 - We collaborate with external professionals and refer to other agencies as needed.
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Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium is additional funding for students who:

- Have received Free School Meals (FSM) in the last six years (Ever FSM 6)
- Have been looked after for over six months or were previously in care and later adopted

The funding is used to support students through tailored interventions, additional resources, and wider opportunities.

Staff Training in SEND

All staff receive ongoing training on SEND-related topics, delivered internally by the Leadership Team or externally by specialists.

Training is tailored to different areas, including:

- Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)
 - Specialist interventions
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Parental Involvement

Parents and carers are encouraged to participate in:

- Coffee mornings and informal discussions

- Personalised Support Plan (PSP) reviews
 - Annual EHCP reviews
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Transition Support

Transitions are carefully planned to ensure a smooth experience for every pupil.

For new students, we work closely with families and previous schools to create bespoke transition plans, which may include:

- Taster sessions
- Induction meetings
- Personalised timetables

For students leaving Knowle DGE, we collaborate with their new school or placement to ensure continuity of support.

Student Voice and Consultation

Students are actively involved in shaping their education.

- Their input is gathered in annual surveys and Student Voice group meetings (held six times a year).
 - Feedback from students is reviewed and acted upon accordingly.
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Further Information & Complaints

If you have any questions about your child's education, please contact:

- Your child's Tutor
- Head of School
- SENDCo or a member of the Strategic Leadership Team

For complaint procedures, please refer to the Knowle DGE website.

Key Staff

Leadership Team:

- **Alun Williams** – CEO
- **Sophie Addison** – Executive Headteacher
- **Kate Lee-Wells** – Head Teacher
- **Nick Lee-Wells** – Deputy Head Teacher
- **Suzanne Nelson** – Assistant Head Teacher
- **Jenny Hughes** – Assistant Head Teacher
- **Matt Franzke** – Assistant Head Teacher
- **Nick Field** – SENDCo

Heads of School:

Lower School:

- **Hannah Harrold**
- **Rob Baker**

Middle School:

- **Craig Caradine**
- **Tamsin Karim**

Upper School:

- **Mark Scott**
- **Matt Carroll**
- **Jane Townsend**

