



2024-2025

## Hampstead Fine Arts

# Disabilities, Learning Difficulties and SEN (including AGT) Policy

### Our curriculum

All students are given an opportunity to learn and make good progress. We take account of the aptitude and needs of every student, including those who are very able (AGT) and those with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP), Disability and/or learning difficulty.

All staff are responsible for ensuring students can access the curriculum. Tutors keep detailed records of students' previous attainment (at their previous school or the year group below at Hampstead Fine Arts College). Tutors also monitor students' progress and attainment closely and keep detailed records of marks from homework, class tests and other assessments. Our regular internal progress reports also record progress or difficulties in performance in class and in homework. These are reviewed and discussed by Tutors and Personal Tutors and Heads of Year, and decisions taken as to how students may be helped further.

### Differentiation

A wide range of learning abilities is catered to by Tutors' daily differentiation in their teaching and support of students, including those at each end of the learning range (AGT and SEND).

### Specific difficulties

In many cases, students and their parents or guardians mention physical disabilities or learning difficulties either at interview or in their first days at the College. Tutors' close monitoring of students' progress and attainment also enables them to be aware of those with physical disabilities and/or learning difficulties.

Whether this information is passed to us or whether Tutors spot learning needs themselves, appropriate steps are then taken, by all staff, to support the student in lessons to remove all barriers to learning. Individual students may be given one-to-one support depending on their needs.

### Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP)

The SENDCo monitors and is responsible for the implementation of EHC plans. Following the

long term and short-term objectives as set out in the EHCP, the SENDCo or SEN support staff will draw up a tailored Student Profile (SP) (which will include individual targets) with the student. This SP is to be available to all relevant staff to be aware of challenges that the student is facing and the strategies they should implement to help the student fulfil their targets and access the curriculum. This SP is to be reviewed termly in house. The student, their parents/guardians, the Local Authority, and all therapists involved will be invited to an annual review. The SENDCo and SEN team members are responsible for monitoring and tracking the progress of the student and keeping records up-to date.

### **Examination support**

Students who ask for extra time in public examinations, or the use of a laptop, or for the help of a scribe or a reader in exams will have this application passed to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority along with supporting documentation showing that the student has been formally tested by a qualified specialist or an educational psychologist and found to be in need.

If the application is approved, the provision will also be given to the student for all their internal College exams and controlled assessments.

### **Other forms of support**

Students will be offered any support that is needed to ensure any barriers to their learning are removed.

Some students will be encouraged to use laptops (as their normal way of working) rather than handwriting notes and homework. Tutors may give extra one-to-one assistance where a student needs more help with a specific task or tasks.

Tutors may prepare a set of printed instructions for a specific task such as essay-writing, where a student is found to be struggling. These instructions can break a task down into manageable steps to help the student progress and to feel a good outcome is achievable.

In some subjects where there is practical work it may be appropriate for a student to be put in a differentiated group who can offer team support and encouragement.

### **English as an Additional Language (EAL)**

Students for whom English is an additional language are identified at interview. It is rare for any student to join us with a low level of skills in English, as this would make it hard for them to follow A level courses. Once they join the College, any degree of difficulty is assessed by their Head of Year, Personal Tutor and/or subject tutors.

Where necessary in academic lessons Tutors will be careful to repeat, explain and modify their language to ensure understanding. Special attention will be paid to spelling. More words will be written on the whiteboard for example, particularly subject-specific

terminology.

Historically the majority of our few EAL students have specialised in creative subjects such as Art, Graphics etc and in these subjects' extra support is offered verbally during the setting of tasks and in one-to-one support sessions to help the students complete the writing in their sketchbooks.

EAL students are specifically recommended to follow courses outside the College in IELTS to help their progress and to ensure they attain the level of English required by most higher education institutions in the UK, usually Level 5 or 6 (Level 7 for Oxbridge and other institutions with high entry requirements).

## **Able, Gifted and Talented Students**

### **Identifying students**

Students in this category are identified in a number of different ways. Academically able and gifted students will be identified through previous examination results, homework, and classwork. Students who are talented in creative subjects such as Art, Music or Drama will sometimes be identified through examination results and in lessons, but others are discovered through our Music and Drama Evenings which give all students an opportunity to perform.

### **Providing for these students**

- **Awards** in the form of prizes or a bursary are given annually for students who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the College or who have been specifically commended. Recipients are chosen by the Principal or the Head in discussion with tutors.
- The College regularly takes groups of students on **culturally enriching study-trips** and for many students these have been the catalyst to opening their eyes to the idea of learning for personal fulfilment and pleasure. AGT students (who may not be studying the subject that is the specific focus of the trip) are invited to attend and, on occasions, awarded financial support on the basis of academic/creative merit.
- There are also study weekends that are not subject specific, organised by our parent company Dukes Education. Selected students attend from each of the group's colleges and these events are aimed at stretching the most able in debating skills and general knowledge.
- The College also prides itself on the way it supports students in their academic and creative aspirations: this takes place through the **Personal Tutorial system** and the **Careers Advice provision**. Students demonstrating AGT characteristics will be encouraged to apply for correspondingly more challenging higher education courses. In recent years, the College has achieved good levels of entry to universities at the more competitive end of the spectrum, including Oxford, LSE,

UCL, The Courtauld Institute, Bristol, Durham, Edinburgh, Manchester and York.

There is a growing tendency for students to apply for universities abroad and students have gained admittance to Brown, Parson's, Pratt and UCLA.

- The College has made significant structural/systemic efforts to encourage students to embrace **the EPQ challenge**. In many cases, the EPQ is used as a stretching, differentiating recourse for AGT students. Some students opt for an academic EPQ, others prefer to undertake a creative project.
- **The Enrichment programme** of visiting speakers is designed to foster development of skills and aspirations across a range of fields, including Art and Design, History of Art, English Literature, the Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Specifically in the area of Fine Art, students are invited to attend **Open Studio sessions** within the weekly timetable, and these provide opportunities for SEN and AGT students to move their progress forward and receive the extra guidance and nurturing they need. Students are also offered extra Life Drawing classes to develop their skills in observational drawing.
- Musically Gifted and Talented students will similarly prove this status in the Music/Music Technology suite but will also have opportunities to showcase their talents in **Open Day and Open Evening concert events**.
- Drama students are provided with the opportunity to perform their productions to audiences within the College. This happens both through the **Open Day and Open Evening concert/drama events** and through the public nature of examination assessment performances. Additionally, the College offers the **LAMDA programme, which** encourages students to stretch themselves in solo drama work on the graded performance scales, typically grades 5 to 8. LAMDA students frequently perform at our concerts.
- Students of both Drama and English Literature are regularly taken to see **theatrical productions** across London in order to foster their love and enjoyment of live performance. These may be made open to students who are not part of the groups involved but who have evinced a strong interest in theatre.
- Students are also regularly taken on trips to hear **lectures** relating to a number of A level subjects. These stretch students by adding to the curriculum and preparing them for the atmosphere and demands of higher education. AGT students will be informed of other events – lectures and exhibitions for example – that may not be organised formally for class groups and encouraged to go to these in their own time.
- Able students will also be given **reading lists** and **extra hand-outs** that stretch their knowledge beyond the set A levels,
- In the area of Media Studies and Film Studies, the films made by students in the course of the College year are showcased on our **Summer Open Days** where, for the last number of years, the Everyman Cinema in Belsize Park has been hired in order to show the work on a full-size screen in a fully professional setting. Many students have been inspired by this experience to pursue filmmaking at higher education and professionally.

- Accomplishments of all kinds are celebrated in the **Fine Arts College Newsletter** and on our **Website**.

**August 2024**

**Reviewed by: JC**