

Use of Resources & Evidence Base Policy

Strategic Governance & Compliance Framework (2026-2027)

Policy Detail	Specification
Version	1.0
Effective Date	June 2026
Review Date	June 2027
Lead Authority	Board of Trustees / Head of Governance

1. Policy Statement & Purpose

SENbetweeners Hub UK provides specialized information, guidance, and resources for children, young people, and families navigating undiagnosed, hidden, or emerging Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) challenges.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all content, training, and resources produced or shared by the Hub are evidence-based, aligned with Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted best practices, and maintain strict professional boundaries regarding medical and clinical diagnoses. We affirm that while support is provided for those with unmet needs, the Hub serves to bridge the gap between initial observation and formal statutory intervention.

2. Legal & Statutory Framework

This policy is rooted in the following UK legislative and regulatory frameworks:

- **Children and Families Act 2014:** Specifically the duty to identify children who have or may have SEND.
- **SEND Code of Practice 2015 (0-25 years):** Adherence to the Graduated Approach (Assess → Plan → Do → Review).
- **Equality Act 2010:** Fulfillment of the "Anticipatory Duty" to make reasonable adjustments for neurodivergent or SEND pupils regardless of a formal diagnosis.
- **Health & Safety at Work Act 1974:** Duty of care regarding the mental wellbeing of learners and staff.
- **UK GDPR & Data Protection Act 2018:** Ensuring that information about mental health and SEND is handled as special category personal data.
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2025):** Safeguarding protocols that override routine confidentiality in cases of risk of harm.

3. Evidence-Based Standards & DfE Alignment

All Hub resources and tools are designed to meet current statutory duties and DfE guidance for schools and settings in England.

3.1 Identification of Patterns of Need

Resources focus on identifying patterns of strength and difficulty rather than clinical labels. This includes:

- Identifying underlying needs (sensory, emotional, communication, and processing) rather than just behavioral symptoms.
- Utilizing evidence-based screening tools like the "Undiagnosed Needs Screening" and "Attendance Banding Framework".

3.2 The Graduated Approach

Hub content is built around the Assess → Plan → Do → Review cycle as mandated by the SEND Code of Practice 2015. Our resources empower professionals to start support immediately upon identifying a need, as the law does not require a medical label before a duty to provide SEN support arises.

3.3 Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Training and environmental guidance align with UDL principles—designing for neurodivergence from the start so that adjustments work for everyone without singling out individuals.

4. Professional Boundaries & Clinical Disclaimer

4.1 Scope of Guidance

SENbetweeners Hub UK provides information and guidance for educational and supportive purposes only. Our role is to identify patterns of need, apply evidence-based educational strategies, and refer to appropriate statutory services.

4.2 Non-Clinical Status

The Hub and its personnel:

- **DO NOT** provide clinical or medical diagnoses (e.g., Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, or Anxiety Disorders).
- **DO NOT** provide regulated medical treatment or formal legal representation.
- **DO NOT** guarantee specific educational or legal outcomes.

All digital resources and guides must include a mandatory disclaimer: "For clinical diagnosis or legal representation, please consult a qualified professional".

5. Quality Assurance & Resource Review

To ensure ongoing compliance and accuracy, the Hub adheres to the following:

- **Alignment with Best Practice:** All content must be aligned with DfE, Ofsted, and NHS best practices and must cite reputable sources.
- **Regular Updates:** Resources are reviewed annually or immediately upon changes to statutory guidance (e.g., changes to KCSIE or the SEND Code of Practice) to ensure schools remain compliant.
- **Lived Experience Integration:** Content incorporates input from pupils, parents, and peer mentors to ensure it remains relevant and neurodiversity-affirming.

6. Mandatory Disclaimer

SENbetweeners Hub UK provides information, training, and signposting for educational and supportive purposes only. We do not diagnose neurodevelopmental or mental health conditions, provide medical treatment, or offer regulated legal advice. All guidance provided is general in nature; users and families are strongly advised to consult qualified medical, clinical, or legal professionals regarding individual cases or statutory assessments.

7. Approval & Authorization

Signed:  Person

Role:  Person (Chair of Trustees / Lead Authority)

Date:  Date