

Combined SEND Policy and Info Report: Is it OK?

A quick guide

What do Ofsted say?

Not much. As might be anticipated, the *Education Inspection Framework* isn't specific. It refers to the Equality Act and SEND Code of Practice (albeit linked to pupils more than parents).

236. Inspectors will evaluate the experience of particular individuals and groups... For pupils with SEND, this will include ensuring that appropriate reasonable adjustments are made in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and the SEND code of practice.

By writing a document that can be read by Y5 and Y6 learners, we've made a reasonable adjustment in line with the Equality Act & Code of Practice.

It's like when schools are rebuilt, they have flat level access even if there's no wheel chair (or walking frame users) on roll.

If we are rebuilding, we make it accessible upfront rather than waiting until it becomes a problem.

If we are re-writing, we make it accessible upfront rather than waiting until it become a problem.

What do The Key say?

Key are viewed as very reliable source by school leaders. Their templates are often used as the basis of school policies.

The blue text says this:

The report can be included in your SEN policy, or presented as a separate document.

It should also be easily accessible to both young people and parents, and set out the information in clear, straightforward language. This is explained in paragraph 6.81 of the SEND Code of Practice, linked above.

The screenshot shows the 'The Key for School Governors' website. The main heading is 'How to review your SEN policy and information report'. Below this, there is a 'Contents' section with links to 'Key facts', 'What the information report needs to do checklist', 'What the policy needs to do checklist', 'Key questions to challenge the policy and information report', 'Model policy and information report', and 'Know how this differs from the local offer and SEN policies'. There is also a section titled 'What the information report needs to do: checklist' which lists several points: 'Arrangements for consulting parents and young people with SEN and involving parents in their child's education', 'Details on identifying pupils with SEN and assessing their needs', 'Support available in different areas for pupils with SEN and', and 'How your school is implementing its SEN policy'. A blue highlighted text box states: 'The report can be included in your SEN policy, or presented as a separate document. It should also be easily accessible to both young people and parents, and set out the information in clear, straightforward language. This is explained in paragraph 6.81 of the SEND Code of Practice, linked above.' At the bottom, there is a link to 'KeyDoc: SEN information report - checklist' and a link to 'What this policy needs to do: checklist'.

Their template for SEND combines the SEND policy and School Information Report. This has been approved by their solicitors. Ours covers all the same points – but is accessible.

Reference: <https://schoolgovernors.thekeysupport.com/policy-bank/equality-inclusion-policies/how-review-sen-information-report-model-policy/?marker=full-search-q-send+information+report-result-1&unlock=1&marker=content-body>

Alternatively, but less conclusively: The Key for School Leaders document says the SEND Policy:

...doesn't have to be published as a separate, stand-alone document.

Reference: Page 6 of this document: https://schoolleaders.thekeysupport.com/article/10893/documents/1105/KeyDoc_-_SEND_provision_audit_2021.docx?marker=content-body

SEND Code of Practice

Says the SEND Information report should report on the implementation of the SEND policy but makes no mention that this has to be done in a separate document.

“6.79 The governing bodies of maintained schools and maintained nursery schools and the proprietors of academy schools must publish information on their websites about the implementation of the governing body’s or the proprietor’s policy for pupils with SEN.

“6.81 Schools should ensure that the information <In the SEND Information Report> is easily accessible by young people and parents and is set out in clear, straightforward language. It should include information on the school’s SEN policy and named contacts within the school for situations where young people or parents have concerns. It should also give details of the school’s contribution to the Local Offer and must include information on where the local authority’s Local Offer is published.”

Also we have a wider duty to prevent discrimination and promote equality of opportunity:

“6.9 All schools have duties under the Equality Act 2010 towards individual disabled children and young people... Schools also have wider duties to prevent discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations.

Are there any other examples of local schools doing this?

- Cascade Academy Trust (Sheffield) has four academies that take this approach, for example: <https://www.beckprimary.co.uk/index.php/our-school/school-policies>
- Oughtibridge Primary (Sheffield) where I'm a governor do it: <https://oughtibridgeschool.co.uk/send/> (although I appreciate I'm now referencing myself so will stop there!)

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