



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

Special Schools as Specialist Schools

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What is specialist status?

- It is about whole school improvement through chosen curriculum development.

It is about working collaboratively with your partner schools and wider community.

It is about providing the best possible educational provision for your students.



What specialisms are available?

- Curriculum Route:
 - Technology
 - Maths & ICT
 - Science
 - Humanities
 - Arts
 - Music
 - Engineering
 - Sports (supported by YST)
 - Languages
 - Business & Enterprise
 - Combined



SEN Route

- SEN specialism
- There are 4 strands – they cannot be combined:
 - Cognition & Learning
 - Emotional, behavioural & social needs
 - Communication & interaction
 - Physical/sensory needs (supported by YST)



How many special schools are specialist?

- 26 with SEN specialism
 - 6 Behavioural, Emotional & Social
 - 12 Cognition & Learning
 - 3 Communication & Interaction
 - 5 Sensory and/or Physical



How many special schools are specialist?

- 40 with subject specialism
 - 7 Arts
 - 3 Business & Enterprise
 - 1 Humanities
 - 1 Maths & Computing
 - 1 Music
 - 4 Science
 - 11 Technology
 - 11 Sports
 - 1 Combined



What are the benefits?

Financial

- £120,000 capital grant (or more made up from)
£20,000 sponsorship (or more) +
£100,000 – DfES
- Curriculum route £645 per secondary age pupil recurrent grant for each of the 4 years of plan.
2/3 – school and 1/3 – community
- SEN strand receive £60,000 and have to spend it 50/50 on school and community.



Gaining Status

- **What do we have to do and how long will it take?**
- We advise 9-12months to prepare a bid.
- There are two submission dates each year.
- Bid needs co-ordination by one person but should be a whole school initiative.



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Gaining Status

What support is available?

- Bidding workshops
- Consultants
- Bid screening
- Sponsorship advice and support
- *Affiliated schools get additional support from network of schools and bidding sessions at conferences.*



Gaining Status – What next?

Three strands:

- 1. School audit & plan*
- 2. Community audit & plan*
- 3. Sponsorship*



What Next

School audit & Plan

- Carry out subject audit
 - Attainment
 - Quality of Teaching and Learning
 - Curriculum Provision
 - Current Participation in Inclusion or take up (curric route)
 - Resources
 - Quality of Management



What Next

Community audit & Plan

- Carry out community audit
 - Define community
 - 5 partner schools
 - 3 wider community partners
 - Summarise consultation and identification of learning needs
 - Link to LA and any other initiatives.



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What Next

Sponsorship

- Need to raise £20,000 of unconditional sponsorship
- Can use private school fund up to £14,000
- Keep record of all efforts
- Eligibility - Check with London Team
- Support may be available.



What Next

What is your vision?

- Decide on specialism
- What will impact of specialist status have on your school and your pupils?
- What will impact be on partner schools
- What will impact be on wider community.
- What is the “big idea”?
- Remember it is about additionality.



Sequence of Events

1. Write draft bid
2. Bid screened by consultant (SSAT)
3. Feedback
4. Produce final bid and submit to DfES
5. DfES read bid and will be either shortlisted or rejected.
6. If shortlisted HMI will visit – this is very rigours, can still fail at this point.
7. If successful will be awarded specialist status and invited to a welcome conference.
8. If unsuccessful then will receive a detailed feedback letter explaining how bid can be strengthened. This will be followed up by SSAT or YST.



Where can I find more information?

- The website to download current guidance regarding schools applying for specialist status along with application form is:

<http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/specialistschools/>

- Information about forthcoming workshops etc to help with the bidding process can be found at:

<http://www.schoolsnetwork.org.uk/main.asp?page=66>

- Information on becoming affiliated

<http://www.ssatrust.org.uk/schools/affiliation/specialschoolnetwork/default.aspx>