



# SEND - Frequently Asked Questions

## Will my child receive TA support?

Teaching Assistants at Vandyke attend a limited number of lessons. This is due to us following the **Graduated Approach**, whereby a high majority of students' needs are met by teachers delivering ordinarily available provision. You can find out more about the Graduated Approach by scanning this QR code.



TAs deliver high quality small group interventions to those whose needs cannot be met by ordinarily available provision. Current evidence suggests that GCSE level students with access to a TA do not achieve better outcomes than those with support. Working independently in class, with teacher expertise, encourages vital skills such as problem solving, critical thinking and resilience.

## Is it true that my child will only receive support if they have an EHCP?

This is absolutely not true. We use information from middle schools and follow their Support Plans for the first half term. During the second half term, we will review this support and issue new Student Support Plans. These plans are reviewed three times per year, as per guidance in the SEND Code of Practice 2015.

## Will my child have the same reasonable adjustments in upper school that they had in middle school?

At Vandyke Upper School, we require medical evidence to support any reasonable adjustments. This includes uniform allowances, toilet passes and movement breaks. Please speak to your consultant, who will be happy to provide this, prior to starting at Vandyke.

If your child currently uses coloured paper in middle school, they will be given a coloured overlay at Vandyke. This is because coloured paper is still not an evidence-based provision to support students with visual stress.



If your child uses a laptop as their normal way of working, these are provided in individual subject departments.

## My child is dyslexic. What support will they get?

All teachers at Vandyke have received dyslexia-friendly training, and dyslexia-friendly teaching is standard practice in all classrooms, under ordinarily available provision. As such, we do not need an official dyslexia diagnosis report to provide the necessary support in the classroom.

## What about exam access arrangements?

At Vandyke, we follow JCQ guidelines for Access Arrangements. Students will not be tested for this until Year 10. This is to ensure that the resulting Access Arrangements remain in place until after their GCSE exams.

## Is there a safe space for my child to go to during break and lunchtimes?

Yes. We offer a small space called Nurture Group, which is staffed by three TAs. Students are encouraged to spend time away from screens, and work on their social and communication skills in a safe space.



## Will my child be expected to do homework?

Yes. Homework is essential to help students revisit key knowledge and consolidate their learning. Homework can be differentiated if required. There is a Homework Club on Mondays after school.

## What if these FAQs haven't answered my questions?

Please email [SEND@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk](mailto:SEND@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk).

