

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy



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Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy

Name of Schools: Iford and Kingston CE Primary School, Hamsey Community School, Barcombe CE Primary School, Plumpton Primary School

Executive Head Teacher: Mr. Stewart James.

Head of School: Mrs. Lindsey Hibbert, Mr Matt Dean, Mrs Georgie Manners, Mr Jon Hughes

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator/Inclusion Manager: Mrs. Sophie James, Mrs Sian Williams

Chair of Governors: Mr. Peter Clark.

SEN Governors: Jane Nurse, Peter Mowforth, Daniel Sherwin and Caroline Wade.

Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mr. Stewart James, Mrs. Sophie James (H & IK), Mrs Sian Williams (B & P), Mrs Georgie Manners(B), Mrs Lucy Payne(B), Mrs Abi Wilkins (B), Mr Matt Dean (H), Mrs Mary Robertson(H), Mrs Angie Green(H), Mrs Lindsey Hibbert(IK), Mrs Mandy Duke(IK), Miss Jessica Hollyman(IK), Mr Jon Hughes(P), Mrs Briony Williams(P), Miss Jen Ross(P)

When referring to the 'Skylark Federation' it includes the following schools unless stated otherwise:

Plumpton Primary School

Hamsey Community School

Barcombe CE Primary School

Iford and Kingston CE Primary School

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1. Aims and objectives

Our special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy aims to:

Set out our approach to supporting children/young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN). For more information about how we support children/young people with SEN please also see our SEN Information Report.

We aim to:

Make sure the Skylark federation fully implements national legislation and guidance regarding pupils with SEND, by:

- Support and make provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
- Provide pupils with SEND access to all aspects of school life so they can engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEND
- Help pupils with SEND fulfil their aspirations and achieve their best
- Help pupils with SEND become confident individuals living fulfilling lives
- Help pupils with SEND make a successful transition to secondary school
- Communicate with pupils with SEND and their parents or carers and involve them in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEND
- Communicate with, and involve, pupils with SEND and their parents or carers in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Make sure the SEND policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff

2. Vision and values

At the Skylark Federation we will provide all pupils with access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

We are committed to making sure all our pupils have the chance to thrive and supporting them to meet their full potential.

We are focused on creating an inclusive environment, where provision is tailored to the needs and abilities of pupils, no matter how varied.

3. Legislation and guidance

This is based on the statutory guidance [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#), [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) and [working together to improve school attendance](#).

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

- [Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN coordinators (SENCOs) and the special educational needs (SEN) information report
- The [Equality Act 2010](#) (section 20), which sets out the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities
- The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of

opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes having a disability) and those who don't share it.

- The governance guide for [maintained schools](#) which sets out governors' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- The [School Admissions Code](#), which sets out the school's obligation to admit all pupils whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and its duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special educational needs

There is additional information about the support that the Local Authority (East Sussex) and other services provide in the East Sussex Local Offer for SEN.

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies/specialneeds/localoffer>

4. Inclusion and equal opportunities

Across the Skylark Federation we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all pupils, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We are committed to offering all pupils the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations.

We will achieve this by making reasonable adjustments to teaching, the curriculum and the school environment to make sure that pupils with SEND are included in all aspects of school life.

5. Definitions

5.1 Special educational needs

A pupil has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision to be made for them.

They have a **learning difficulty or disability** if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age, or
- A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

5.2 Disability

Pupils are considered to have a **disability** if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

Schools within the Skylark federation will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

5.3 The 4 areas of need

The needs of pupils with SEND are grouped into 4 broad areas. Pupils can have needs that cut across more than 1 area, and their needs may change over time.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the pupil's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	<p>Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or not understand or use the social rules of communication.</p> <p>Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.</p>
Cognition and learning	<p>Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers. A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific learning difficulties, which impact 1 or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia • Moderate learning difficulties • Severe learning difficulties • Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment
Social, emotional and mental health	<p>These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder • Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder • Suffered adverse childhood experiences <p>These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.</p>
Sensory and/or physical	<p>Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided.</p> <p>Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment • A physical impairment <p>These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.</p>

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The SENCO

The SENCOs across the Skylark Federation are:

Sophie James-

Iford and Kingston CE Primary School

Hamsey Community School

Sian Williams –

Barcombe CE Primary School

Plumpton Primary school

They will:

- Inform any parents that their child may have SEN and then liaise with them about the pupil's needs and any provision made
- Work with the head of school and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- Be a point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to make sure that appropriate provision is provided
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to make sure that the pupil and their parents/carers are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned
- When a pupil moves to a different school or institution: Make sure that all relevant information about a pupil's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution in a timely manner
- Work with the head of school and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Make sure the school keeps its records of all pupils with SEND up to date and accurate
- With the head of school, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- With the head of school, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy
- With the head of school and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison, with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

6.2 The governors

The governors are responsible for making sure the following duties are carried out, though the duties can be delegated:

- Do all it can to make sure that every pupil with SEND gets the support they need

- Make sure that pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who don't have SEND
- Make sure parents/carers are informed when the school is making special educational provision for their child
- Make sure that the school has arrangements in place to support any pupils with medical conditions
- Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- Have a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND
- Provide an annual report for parents/carers on their child's progress
- Record accurately and keep up to date the provision made for pupils with SEND
- Publish information on the school website about how the school is implementing its SEND policy, in an SEN information report
- Publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favorably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and the school's accessibility plans
- Make sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENCO for the school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out, and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out
- Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND

6.3 The SEND link governors

The SEND link governors are Peter Mowforth, Jane Nurse, Daniel Sherwin and Caroline Wade

The SEND governors will:

- Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at governing board meetings
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within the school and update the governing board on this
- Work with the head of school and SENCO to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school

6.4 Executive Headteacher and Head of School

The Executive headteacher and head of school will:

- Work with the SENCO's and SEND link governors to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the Federation.
- Work with the SENCO's and Federation governors to make sure the federation meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for pupils with SEND, and their progress
- Have responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEND budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual pupils
- Make sure that the SENCO's have enough time to carry out their duties
- Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of pupils on the SEND register
- With the SENCO's, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the Federation's plan for continuous professional development

- With the SENCO's, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support that the individual schools can offer or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- With the SENCO's and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the Federation's identification of SEN, both within each individual school and in comparison, with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

6.5 Class teachers

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is differentiated to meet pupil needs through a graduated approach
- The progress and development of every pupil in their class
- Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- Working with the SENCO to review each pupil's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision
- Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report
- Communicating with parents/carers 3 times a year to:
 - Set clear targets and review progress towards them
 - Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set targets
 - Identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school
 - Listen to the parents'/carers' concerns and agree their aspirations for the pupil

6.6 Parents or carers

Parents or carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development.

Parents or carers of a pupil on the SEND register will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their child's SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. They will be:

- Invited to termly meetings to review the provision that is in place for their child.
- Asked to provide information about the impact of SEN support outside school and any changes in their child's needs
- Given the opportunity to share their concerns and, with school staff, agree their aspirations for their child.
- Given an annual report on the child's progress

The individual schools will take into account the views of the parents or carers in any decisions made about their child.

A leaflet has been written for parents outlining SEND within the federation. This is available on all schools' websites.

6.7 The pupil

Pupils will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. This might involve the pupil:

- Explaining what their strengths and difficulties are
- Contributing to setting targets

- Attending review meetings
- Giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions

The pupil's views will be taken into account in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.

7. SEN information report

Each school within the Skylark Federation publishes an SEN information report on its website, which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school.

The information report will be updated annually and as soon as possible after any changes to the information it contains.

8. Our approach to SEND support

8.1 Identifying pupils with SEND and assessing their needs

We will assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment when they start at the school. This will build on information from previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. We will also consider any evidence that the pupil may have a disability and if so, what reasonable adjustments the school may need to make.

Class teachers will assess the progress of all pupils three times a year and identify any whose progress:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better their previous rate of progress
- Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers
- Widens the attainment gap

This may include progress in areas other than attainment; for example, wider development or social needs.

When teachers identify an area where a pupil is making slow progress, they will target the pupil's area of weakness with differentiated, high-quality teaching. If progress does not improve, the teacher will raise the issue with the SENCO to have an initial discussion about whether this lack of progress may be due to a special educational need.

The Federation uses a flow chart to assist with getting support for pupils (Appendices 1)

Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a pupil is recorded as having SEN.

Potential short-term causes of impact on behaviour or performance will be considered, such as bullying or bereavement. Staff will also take particular care in identifying and assessing SEN for pupils whose first language is not English.

When deciding whether the pupil needs special educational provision, we will start with monitoring a pupil; this will include looking at expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the pupil and their parents/carers. We will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether we can provide it by adapting our core offer, or whether something different or additional is needed. If additional provision is required, the child will be moved onto the SEN register.

If a pupil is joining the school, and:

- Their previous setting has already identified that they have SEN
- They are known to external agencies
- They have an education, health and care plan (EHCP)

then the school will work in a multi-agency way to make sure we get relevant information before the pupil starts at school, so support can be put in place as early as possible.

8.2 Consulting and involving pupils and parents/carers

At The Skylark Federation we will put the pupil and their parents/carers at the heart of all decisions made about special educational provision.

When we are aiming to identify whether a pupil needs special education provision, we will have an early discussion with the pupil and their parents/carers. These conversations will make sure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty
- We take into account any concerns the parents/carers have
- Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child
- Everyone is clear on what the next steps are

Notes of these early discussions will be added to the pupil's record on Edu-key and shared with their parents/carers.

We will always notify parents/carers if it is decided that a pupil will receive special educational provision.

8.3 The graduated approach to SEN support

Once a pupil has been identified as having SEN, we will take action to remove any barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This support will be delivered through successive rounds of a 4-part cycle known as the graduated approach. A Learning plan will be written on Edu-key for the pupil at this point.

1. Assess

The pupil's class teacher and the SENCO will carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. The views of the pupil and their parents/carers will be taken into account.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly to help make sure that the support in place is matched to the pupil's need. For many pupils, the most reliable way to identify needs is to observe the way they respond to an intervention.

2. Plan

In consultation with the parents/carers and the pupil, the teacher and the SENCO will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review.

All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of the pupil's needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are needed. This information will be recorded on Edu-key, our management system in the form of a Learning plan. The Learning plan will be reviewed and updated 3 times a year by the class teacher.

Parents/carers will be fully aware of the planned support and interventions and may be asked to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

3. Do

The pupil's class or subject teacher retains overall responsibility for their progress.

Where the plan involves group or 1-to-1 teaching away from the main class or subject teacher, they still retain responsibility for the pupil. They will work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.

The SENCO will support the teacher in further assessing the pupil's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on how to implement support effectively.

4. Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

We will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. This evaluation will be based on:

- The views of the parents/carers and pupils
- The level of progress the pupil has made towards their outcomes
- The views of teaching staff who work with the pupil

The teacher and the SENCO will revise the outcomes and support in light of the pupil's progress and development, and in consultation with the pupil and their parents/carers.

8.4 Levels of support

Monitoring

Pupils will be discussed with the SENCO and a monitoring form will be completed. These pupils will be discussed regularly but informally.

School-based SEN provision

Pupils receiving SEN provision will be placed on the school's SEND register. These pupils have needs that can be met by the school through the graduated approach. Where the pupil's needs cannot be adequately met with in-house expertise, staff will consider involving an external specialist as soon as possible.

The provision for these pupils is funded through the school's notional SEND budget.

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code K.

If the child's needs are more complex with other agencies involved the SENCO will write an Additional Needs plan with long-term provision.

Education, health and care (EHC) plan

Pupils who need more support than is available through the school's school-based SEN provision may be entitled to an EHC plan. The plan is a legal document that describes the needs of the pupil, the provision that will be put in place, and the outcomes sought.

The provision for these pupils will be funded from the school's notional SEND budget, and potentially from the LA (from the high-level needs funding block of the dedicated schools grant).

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code E.

8.5 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- Tracking pupils' progress, including by using provision maps
- Tracking Pupils progress in Interventions on Edu-key
- Reporting termly to governors
- Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support on Learning plans and Additional Needs plans.
- Pupil voice questionnaires
- Monitoring by the SENCO
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans

- Getting feedback from the pupil and their parents/carers

9. Attendance

Many pupils with SEND face complex barriers to attendance. Their right to an education is the same as any other pupil and therefore the attendance ambition for these pupils is the same as it is for any other pupil. However, they may need additional support.

Our approach to supporting pupils who are absent from school due to their SEND is set out in our attendance policy. Attendance is tracked by the Head of School and the school secretary.

A pupil may receive support from the LA if their needs mean they are too unwell to attend school.

Pupils whose attendance is below 80% will have an attendance plan written and saved on Edu-key.

10. Safeguarding

We recognise that pupils with SEND can face additional safeguarding challenges. Children with disabilities are more likely to be abused than their peers, and additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse, exploitation and neglect in this group.

For more details of pastoral support, we offer pupils with SEND, and the support we provide to help pupils overcome any communication barriers they face, see our safeguarding/child protection policy.

All concerns will be recorded by any member of staff on the system in school- CPoms.

11. Expertise and training of staff

Training will regularly be provided to the teaching and support staff. The Executive headteacher, Head of School and the SENCO's will continuously monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.

12. Links with external professional agencies

The school recognises that it won't be able to meet all the needs of every pupil. Whenever necessary, the school will work with external support services such as:

- Speech and language therapists
- Specialist teachers or support services in the LA; CLASS, TASS, TLP, Alternative Provision
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- General practitioners or pediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Education welfare officers
- Social services

13. Admission and accessibility arrangements

13.1 Admission arrangements

If your child has SEND but not an EHCP, they should apply for a place at a federation school alongside other children their age.

All our schools support children with SEND. Your child's pre-school will help communicate what support your child needs to make sure there is a smooth transition.

It is important to visit the school you would like to send your child to and speak to them about your child's needs. Ask to meet with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)- Sophie James or Sian Williams.

To apply for a school in East Sussex, [visit the East Sussex County Council Admissions' page.](#)

If your child has an EHCP

The admissions' system for children with an EHCP is different. You do not go through the normal admissions' system.

Part of the process of obtaining an EHCP involves naming the school you and the team supporting your child feel is the best match for their needs. This means that you can express a preference for the school you want. This can be either at the time you first get the EHCP or when your child moves to a different phase of education. East Sussex County Council will try to provide a place at the named school.

You can also ask for a change of school at an annual review.

For more information, visit East Sussex pages on [Education, Health and Care Plans.](#)

13.2 Accessibility arrangements

We take the following steps to make sure all children are treated fairly and equally:

- We make reasonable adjustments to meet the individual needs of disabled pupils..
- We work closely with families and outside professionals to understand and meet each child's specific needs.
- We promote a caring and inclusive school culture where everyone is respected.
- We take any concerns about discrimination or unfair treatment seriously and act quickly to resolve them.

To help disabled children take part in school life fully and comfortably, we *will* when needed provide:

- Ramps, handrails, and accessible toilets to support physical access.
- Calm spaces and sensory-friendly areas for children who need a quieter environment.
- Visual timetables, now-and-next boards, and other visual supports for children who benefit from structure and routine.
- Special equipment and resources such as pencil grips, writing slopes, or tablets with assistive technology.
- Teaching assistant support and 1:1 adult help where appropriate and when funded.
- Flexible arrangements for lunch, playtimes, and transitions to help children feel safe and confident.

Our **Accessibility Plan** sets out how we are working to make sure disabled pupils can fully access school life.

If you have any questions about how we support disabled pupils, please contact one of our SENCO's or Head of school at each individual school. We are always happy to discuss how we can help your child feel included and succeed at school.

14. Complaints about SEND provision

Where parents/carers have concerns about our school's SEND provision, they should first raise their concerns informally with the class teacher. We will try to resolve the complaint informally in the first instance. If this does not resolve their concerns, parents are welcome to submit their complaint formally.

Formal complaints about SEND provision in our schools should be made to the head of school in the first instance. They will be handled in line with the federation's complaints policy.

If the parent or carer is not satisfied with the school's response, they can escalate the complaint.

To see a full explanation of suitable avenues for complaint, see pages 246 and 247 of the [SEN Code of Practice](#).

15. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

15.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

We will evaluate how effective our SEND provision is with regards to:

- All staff's awareness of pupils with SEND at the start of the autumn term
- How early pupils are identified as having SEND
- Pupils' progress and attainment once they have been identified as having SEND
- Whether pupils with SEND feel safe, valued and included in the school community
- Comments and feedback from pupils and their parents/carers
-

15.2 Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by the Federation governor's **every year**. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

It will be approved by the full governing board.

16. Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to the following documents

- SEN information report
- The local offer
- Accessibility plan
- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- Attendance policy
- Safeguarding / child protection policy
- Complaints policy

Written: May 2025

Sophie James and Sian Williams
(SENCO's)