

SUPPORTED LEARNING

(Support for Students having Special Educational Needs)

POLICY STATEMENT

A student requires Supported Learning if he/she has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of persons of a similar age or has a disability which either prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities which are generally provided. It includes all students with learning difficulties and disabilities, those with physical disabilities and sensory impairment, as well as those with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties which restrict their learning.

It is the policy of Canterbury College that:

- 1 Students requiring Supported Learning shall have the same rights of access to College courses as other students.
- 2 Entry to a College course will be determined by the usual academic requirements of that course and Supported Learning provided as appropriate.
- 3 The College will actively co-operate and seek to develop joint delivery with community agencies and special schools in providing access for students in need of Supported Learning.
- 4 On course support shall be adequate and appropriate to the needs of the individual student and there shall be appropriate resourcing of specialised equipment and welfare support to meet needs identified in an individual learning programme.
- 5 The College will actively work towards providing an environment that takes into account the learning requirements of all students.
- 6 Students requiring Supported Learning will be encouraged to achieve nationally accredited qualifications.
- 7 All staff working on courses that have recruited students in need of support shall receive appropriate specialised staff development and there shall be awareness raising amongst all academic and support staff. This staff development will be consistent with the College's Staff Development Policy.
- 8 As part of the normal Total Quality Management process the College Supported Learning provision will be subjected to the usual review procedures of cross-college support.
- 9 The Supported Learning Policy will be consistent and complementary to all other College policies and in particular to the Equal Opportunities, Race Equality, Disability and Health & Safety policies
- 10 The Supported Learning Policy will be implemented and monitored by the Manager with cross college responsibility for Supported Learning.
- 11 There will be a Disability Statement issued annually in accordance with Government requirements. The statement will include full coverage of the Supported Learning Policy.

The policy as stated will be implemented in the following way:

- 1 **Students requiring Supported Learning shall have the same rights of access to College courses as other students.**
 - 1.1 The College will actively encourage students with learning difficulties and disabilities to access courses appropriate to their academic and vocational needs.

- 2 Entry to a College course will be determined by the usual academic requirements of that course and Supported Learning provided as appropriate.**
- 2.1 Assessment of individual Supported Learning needs will be made by the College in co-operation with other interested parties and voluntary agencies, and a suitable level of funding sought for that support.
- 3 The College will actively co-operate with community agencies and special schools in providing access for students in need of Supported Learning.**
- 3.1 The College will be pro-active in engaging with members of the community including special schools.
- 3.2 Active co-operation with the specialist careers officers will be a feature of College Supported Learning.
- 3.3 Advice with respect to Supported Learning will be sought from the appropriated statutory and voluntary agencies.
- 4 On course support shall be adequate and appropriate to the needs of the individual student and there shall be appropriate resourcing of specialised equipment and welfare support to meet needs identified in an individual learning programme.**
- 4.1 Initial assessment will take into account specialised equipment and welfare needs.
- 4.2 The Programme/Cross College Manager for Supported Learning shall have overall responsibility for the resourcing of individual support needs.
- 4.3 The Programme/Cross College Manager for Supported Learning will ensure appropriate reviews of additional learning requirement of individual student.
- 5 The College will actively work towards providing an environment that takes into account the needs of all students.**
- 5.1 The College Estates planning will work towards 100% physical accessibility of appropriate physical areas.
- 5.2 New developments within the College will include accessibility as a major consideration.
- 6 Students requiring Supported Learning will be encouraged to achieve nationally accredited qualifications.**
- 6.1 Within discrete programmes of Supported Learning tutors will actively seek to provide nationally recognised outcomes as appropriate.
- 7 All staff working on courses that have recruited students in need of support shall receive appropriate specialised staff development and there shall be awareness raising amongst all academic and support staff. This staff development will be consistent with the College's Staff Development Policy.**
- 7.1 Aspects of Supported Learning will be included as a regular feature of annual staff development programmes within the College.
- 7.2 Individual members of staff who are involved in specialised support will be actively encouraged by their line managers to undertake appropriate training.

- 8 As part of the normal Total Quality Management process the College Supported Learning provision will be subjected to the usual review procedures of cross college support.**
- 8.1 Supported Learning will be an integral part of the planning, monitoring and review process within the Total Quality Management system.
- 8.2 The Supported Learning Policy will be subject to the review process.
- 8.3 The cross college provision will be integrated within the Total Quality Management process.
- 9 The Supported Learning Policy will be consistent and complementary to all other College policies and in particular to the Equal Opportunities, Race Equality, Disability and Health & Safety policies
- 9.1 Changes in any policy will take into account the particular needs of students receiving Supported Learning.
- 10 The Supported Learning Policy will be implemented and monitored by the Manager with cross college responsibility for Supported Learning.**
- 11 There will be a Disability Statement issued annually in accordance with Government requirements. The statement will include full coverage of the Supported Learning Policy.**