

Habitat School, Al Tallah

POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR STUDENTS OF DETERMINATION (SCHOOL SOD POLICY – 2020-2021)

HABITAT SCHOOL, AL TALLAH, AJMAN

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة التربية والتعليم

Students of Determination

2020-2021

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful!



The people of the United Arab Emirates have an enormous amount of concern for the needs of individuals with special needs which stems from our traditional cultural beliefs that emphasize a philosophy of social responsibility for the needs of all members of society. Therefore, having concern for the needs of individuals with special needs and being committed to helping them develop to their fullest potential is not only the responsibility of families of individuals with special needs. It is a duty for all members of society.

Education is a resource which all members of society may utilize to develop to their maximum potential, therefore ensuring that individuals with special needs have equal access to a quality inclusive education is a priority for all members of society and requires that government authorities unite in our efforts to utilize our resources to meet the educational needs of individuals with special needs.

The philosophy of inclusive education in schools in the United Arab Emirates was envisioned by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and his brothers, the rulers of Emirates - May Allah protect them all - and supported by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy President of the UAE and Head of the Ministerial Council - May Allah protect him - and was transformed into Federal Law 29/2006 Regarding the Rights of Individuals With Special Needs. The law stipulates that “special needs in themselves are not an obstruction to joining or getting admission into an educational institution, no matter whether it is a public or private institution”. This law shows the great compassion and concern that our noble leaders have for the needs of others and their belief that equal access to a quality education will help individuals with special needs develop to their full potential.

The Ministry of Education of the United Arab Emirates supports the national and international educational philosophy of inclusion, which means that being educated in regular education classrooms with peers in their age range, in their neighbourhood schools with necessary supports is the optimal environment to meet the educational, social, emotional and vocational needs of individuals with special needs.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all individuals and organizations involved as we continue to unite together and strive to meet the challenges that lie ahead as we embark on this exciting journey of putting the philosophy of inclusion into practice in the United Arab Emirates.

Hameed Mohammed Al Qatamy

Minister of Education



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

PHILOSOPHY, VISION AND MISSION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION IN UAE

Philosophy for Special Education

Each student is unique in his own way and needs to be provided with a safe, caring and stimulating environment to grow and mature emotionally, intellectually, physically and socially. Educators demonstrate a commitment to teach all students and provide them with a safe and supportive environment to develop to their maximum potential based on their individual strengths and challenges.

Vision for Special Education

Our vision is to provide educational programs and related services to students with special needs and gifts and talents in public and private schools in the UAE that reflect the best international, standards and practices to prepare them to be productive members of society.

Mission for Special Education

Use all available resources to plan, implement, and monitor the provision of special education programs and related services to students with special needs and gifts and talents and ensure that they receive an Individual Education Program (IEP) or Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) based on their strengths and needs to enhance their social competence and enable them to maximize their contributions to their communities.

Philosophy of Inclusive Education

The provision of support and equal access to educational programs and services for students with special needs and gifts and talents are the priorities of the educational policy in the United Arab Emirates and reflect the philosophy of inclusive education. Inclusive education means that all students have the right to be educated to the extent possible with their age-appropriate peers who do not necessarily have disabilities in the general education of their neighborhood school with support provided. Inclusive education is not intended to limit the participation of students with special needs to regular education programs and services. Rather, inclusive education means that students with special needs have the opportunity to participate in educational programs and services in the least restrictive environment that is commensurate with their individual strengths and needs. In many cases, the least restrictive environment is the regular education classroom, though not all the time. Here it must be noted, that students may be eligible to receive special education programs and services and may receive those services and remain enrolled in the regular education classroom.

School Mission and Vision

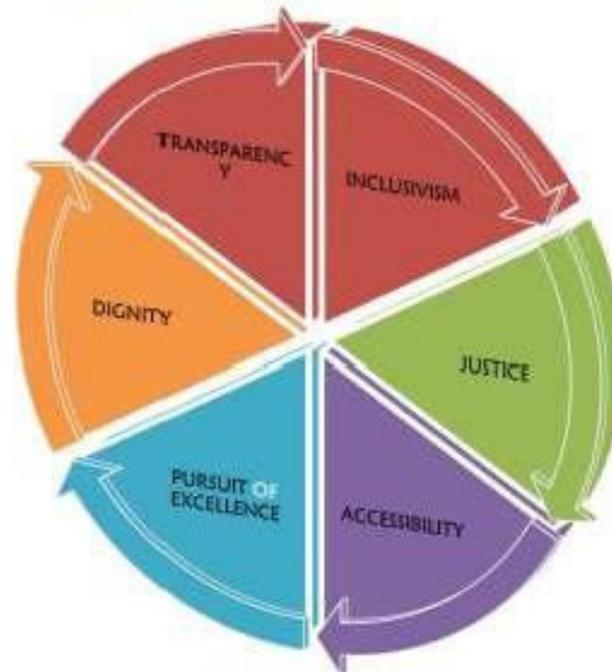
Our Vision

The school envisages learning as a communitarian process of imbibing education from the natural, academic, social and technological eco systems created around the institution of school.

Our Mission

We strive to provide a new model of education for the expatriate children in the UAE in a culturally inclusive, technologically effective and ecologically sensitive way in a cosmopolitan environment.

Our Core Values



Student Support Team (SST) in Habitat School, Al Tallah

LEADERSHIP MEMBERS

Principal	Ms. Mariyam Nizar Ahamed
Vice Principal	Dr. Huma Ather
Supervisors	Ms. Annie Jerald Maryadasan Ms. Ghousia Beegum
Special Educator/ SOD Specialist	Ms. Jismi Achipra Valappil
School Counsellor	Ms. Raseena Ahamed
Head of the Department	Ms. Sahla Thaikkadan Ms. Sabidha Palembadiyan Kapat
School Nurse	Ms. Asha

Special Education in HABITAT SCHOOL AL TALLAH

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- **To welcome Students of Determination (SOD) and meet their needs in a positive manner so they achieve their best.**
- **To ensure that the Students of Determination are identified as early as possible and are fully integrated into the classroom.**
- **To provide appropriate services to the students with disabilities and special gifts and talents to meet their needs and enhance their abilities.**
- **To provide equal educational opportunities for all the students.**
- **To provide an inclusive education for all students with special needs and use our best endeavors to remove barriers to learning by providing high quality teaching differentiated for individual pupils.**
- **To promote the all-round development and self-esteem of children by creating a warm and nurturing environment where all children feel valued and are encouraged to reach their full potential.**
- **To implement different teaching and learning strategies to maximize achievement.**
- **To ensure that all staff including non-teaching staff, are provided with support and opportunities to develop their professional knowledge to work with the Students of Determination.**
- **To maintain appropriate records and profiles of SOD and other disadvantaged groups.**
- **To collaborate with the parents of students with special needs and gifts and talents at every step of the educational process starting from the assessment phase to developing an Individual Education Plan and monitoring the progress of the student.**

- **To maintain good working relationship with outside agencies to ensure adequate provision for Students of Determination and other disadvantaged groups.**
- **To provide an on-going training for all staff (teaching and non-teaching) working with Students of Determination and other disadvantaged groups.**
- **To promote awareness among the students and parents about the special education programs, plans and categories of students with special needs.**

OBJECTIVES OF DISTANCE LEARNING

- **To provide individualized educational support for the Students of Determination in terms of remedial classes.**
- **To apply the techniques of motivation and encouragement.**
- **To provide modified study materials (worksheets, notes and question papers).**
- **To give examination support for the Students of Determination.**
- **To collaborate with the parents of Students of Determination for the betterment of their psychological condition.**
- **To provide counselling for the Students of Determination and their parents.**

STUDENTS OF DETERMINATION- CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS

Special Educational Needs (SEN): It is the generic term for any disability, disorder, difficulty, impairment, exceptional needs (rare cases) or other additional needs that may be caused by mental, behavioural, physical, emotional or cognitive factors and which may affect a student's learning and his or her educational performance. These students require additional educational support beyond that provided in general classrooms in order to achieve the greatest benefit from the curriculum.

Disability: Disability is a social condition that occurs when an individual with a long term limitation, experiences attitudinal, social and environmental barriers that prevent full and effective participation within a community. A disability is the result of an individual's interaction with society and is not an attribute of the person.

CATEGORIES OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

The following categories of disabilities are recognized by UAE, Ministry of Education as categories of disabilities that qualify a student to receive special education programs and related services, if it can be demonstrated that the disability adversely affects the child's academic performance.

- **Specific Learning Disabilities:** A Specific Learning Disability is a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological process involved in understanding or in using language spoken or written that may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or perform mathematical calculations and/or mathematical reasoning, including conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia and developmental aphasia.

The term does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, of cognitive disability, of emotional disability, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.

- **Physical and Health Related Disability:** This means physical and health problems which are chronic or severe in a manner that they lead to poor and limited functionality and adversely affect the educational performance of the student such as: (Asthma, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Epilepsy, Leukemia, Cerebral Palsy, Renal Failure, HIV and Head Injuries etc.)

- **Visual Impairment:** It means impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term visual impairment includes both partially sighted and blindness.
- **Hearing Impairment including Deafness:** Hearing Impairment including deafness means, an impairment that, with or without amplification, adversely affects educational performance; may be permanent or fluctuating; may be so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification.
- **Speech and Language Disorders:** Speech and language disorders means having a communication disorder such as stuttering, impaired articulation, language impairment, or a voice impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance.
- **Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD):** It is also known as Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDDs), cause severe and pervasive impairment in thinking, feeling, language, and the ability to relate to others. These disorders are usually first diagnosed in early childhood and range from a severe form, called Autistic Disorder, through Pervasive Development Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), to a much milder form, Asperger's Disorder. They also include two rare disorders, Rett's Disorder and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder.
- **Emotional and Behavioral Disorders:** An emotional and behavioral disorder means a condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree that adversely affects a child's educational performance:
 - (a) an inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors;
 - (b) an inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers;
 - (c) inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances,
 - (d) a general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression, and
 - (e) a tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

The term includes schizophrenia. The term does not apply to children who are socially maladjusted, unless it is determined that they have an emotional disturbance.

- **Intellectual Disabilities:** It was formerly called “mental retardation” means having significantly below average general intellectual functioning, existing along with deficits in adaptive behavior which are manifested during developmental period and adversely affect a child’s educational performance.
- **Gifted and Talented:** It refers to having outstanding ability, or a great deal of willingness in one or more areas of intelligence, or creative, or academic achievement or special talents and abilities such as oratory, poetry, drawing, handicrafts, sports, drama or leadership capacity. More often the performance of the talented or gifted student is so exceptional or advanced that they require special provisions to meet their educational needs in the general education classrooms with support from special education teachers and resource room teachers.

The Ministry of Education in the UAE provides various services to Gifted and Talented students such as: enrichment programs inside the general education classes or resource rooms (either in a subject in the curriculum, or subject not included in the curriculum). Additional services include assigning students individual projects and studies, specialized educational tours, attending lectures, debates, educational seminars, participating in educational competitions, providing students with programs to solve problems, programs of leadership, communication and computer skills, and other such enrichment programs are also provided.

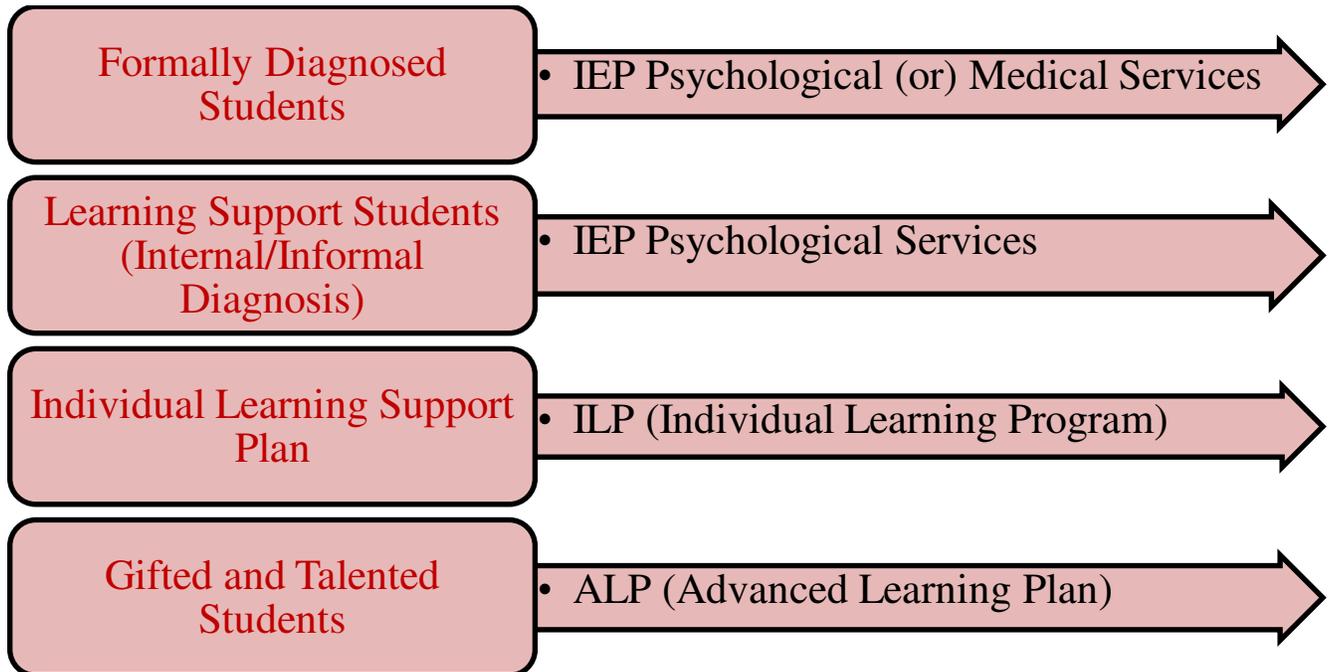
- **Exclusionary Clause:** The term disability and or placement in special education does not apply to students who are experiencing learning problems that are primarily the result of the following circumstances:
 - environmental factors
 - cultural factors including not being a native Arabic speaker
 - economic disadvantage
 - or students who have experienced academic failure.

If any of the above circumstances are present, then a student should be referred to the School Support Team for intervention and support services. The major category of disabilities which may qualify a student for special education programs and services are not limited to the aforementioned, but also includes other disabilities such as the following:

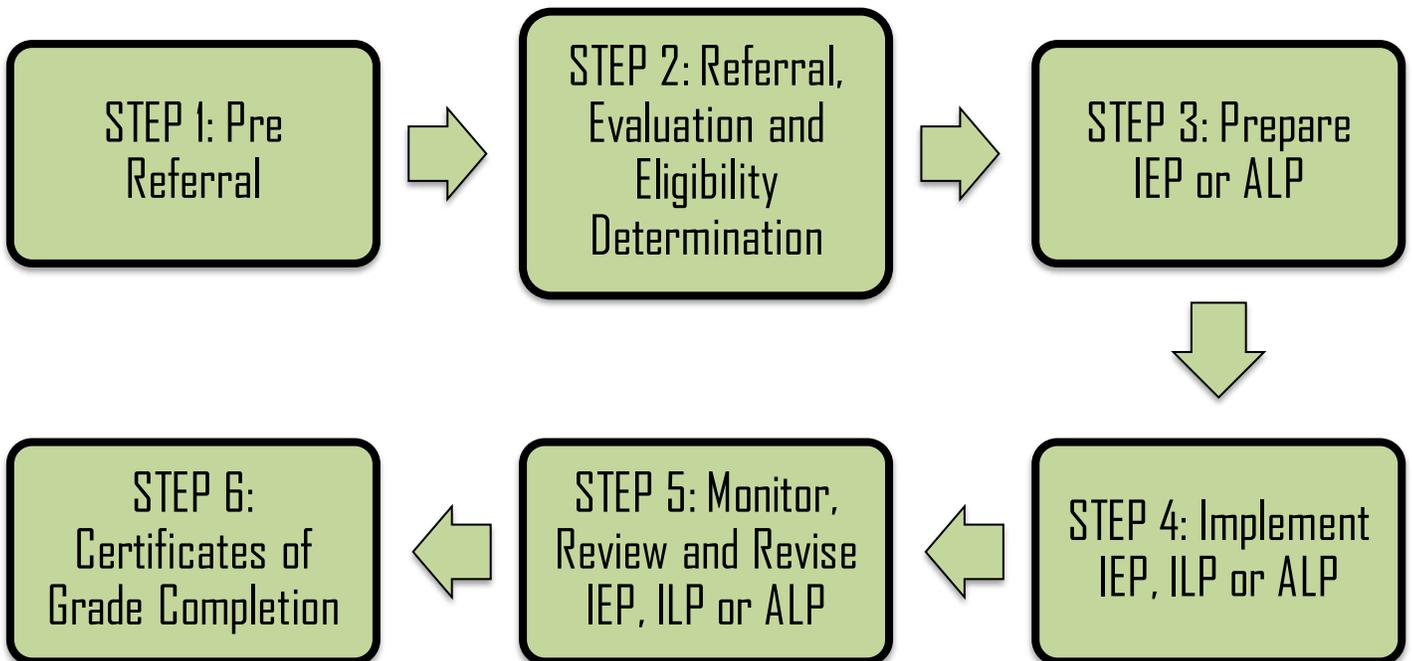
Multiple Disabilities, and Developmental Delay

- **Multiple Disabilities:** A student who experiences a number of severe barriers to learning, such as a sensory disability and a physical disability, may be identified as having multiple disabilities. Students are identified with a multiple disability when severe barriers caused by more than one type of disability, disorder or condition are present. The particular combination of challenges experienced by a student who experiences multiple barriers to learning will vary but will always have a very significant impact upon their personal and educational functioning. This may mean that they make tiny steps of progress over time.
- **Developmental Delay (Barriers with typical development):** There are many types of developmental delays in infants and young children. These include problems with language or speech, vision, movement/motor skills, social and emotional skills and thinking/cognitive skills.
- **ELL (English Language Learners) :** Particular care is given to students those whose mother tongue or commonly used language is not English.

SOD SUPPORT IN SCHOOL



PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION



STEP: 1- Pre Referral

- The Student Support Team will brief the SOD categories and teachers' role in identifying the SODs at the beginning of academic year.
- The written referral by class teachers, subject teachers and parents will be received by the Student Support Team.
- Then the Student Support Team meets and reviews referrals received to the team members.
- The Student Support Team conducts a review of students' academic and performance history, medical history, and conducts a classroom observation in the area of concern. SST members make recommendations for pre-referral interventions intended to improve the student's academic performance.
- The SST members monitor the student's progress for a maximum of four weeks and review data weekly for discussion.
- If the student's progress is adequate, interventions may be discontinued when no longer needed.

STEP: 2- Referral, Evaluation and Eligibility Determination

The Student Support Team members who conduct the comprehensive evaluation include the following:

- Special Education Teacher
- Teacher (Class teacher, Subject teacher)
- The Parent/Guardian
- The School Principal
- Vice Principal
- School Counsellor and other specialists who are required according to the condition of student such as a physician, nurse and the student himself, if appropriate.

Each member of the Student Support Team conducts a comprehensive assessment to determine the student's strengths, needs and present level of academic and social functioning. Each member must complete an evaluation within 30 days from the date that the referral was received by the SST.

STEP: 3- Develop IEP, ILP or ALP

If the Student Support Team determines that the student is eligible to receive special education programs and services, then following the special education team meeting, an IEP meeting is held, and an IEP is developed. The most important elements of the IEP are the goals and objectives and accommodations, and modifications that are needed to meet the educational needs of the student.

STEP: 4- Implement IEP/ILP or ALP

Special education programs and services are provided to students in accordance with the recommendations of the IEP or ALP. The IEP or ALP should be implemented immediately following written parental approval.

Implementation of the IEP or ALP should start as soon as possible but within a 2 week period. There are many factors to consider when placement decisions are being made.

STEP: 5- Monitor, Review and Revise IEP/ILP or ALP

The IEP should be reviewed and progress monitored during each regularly scheduled card marking period. However, school personnel or a parent/guardian may request that the team review progress at an earlier date. During the first three months following the special education team members may be reconvened to review the progress. The special education teacher, responsible for overseeing the implementation of the IEP will prepare the IEP Annual Review report at the end of the academic year and make recommendations for the next school year.

STEP: 6- Certificates of Grade Completion

Upon completion of a grade level, students with special needs will be given a certificate of completion which also indicates that he has a disability and that he has received special education services.

The certificate provided to the student will indicate the following:

- Category of Disability
- Assistive Technology Needed
- Gifted and Talented (the areas or subjects in which he excelled are mentioned).

Important things to be noticed while certificate preparation:

- The indication of disability should not act as a labeling for the student but it should be mentioned in the certificate when it is going to other schools inside UAE or abroad for ensuring continued support services and to ensure his right of access as stated in article 12 of the Federal Law No. 29/2006.

[**Article (12)** (The state shall guarantee for the person with special needs equal opportunities for obtaining education in all educational institutions, educational and vocational training, adult education and continuing education as part of regular classes or in special classes, if needed, with providing the curriculum in sign language or in the form of (Braille) and through any other methods as appropriate. Special needs do not constitute in themselves an impediment in seeking affiliation or enrollment or admission to any educational institution, whether public or private).]

- The certificate should include the attained/progressed skills of the student and areas of improvement.
- The certificate should not issue to anyone if there is confidentiality concern.
- The certificate should issue only to the parents'/ legal guardian and their signature is mandatory to take along with the official seal and signature.
- A covering letter with confidential concerns and terms should be clearly mentioned is needed along with the certificate.
- The covering letter should address the recipients' full address with designation.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOD PROVISION

Duties and Responsibilities of the School Principal

- ✓ Accept students with special needs and giving them the full opportunity to learn.
- ✓ Thoroughly apply the principles and general rules for special education programs.
- ✓ Promote a culture of inclusion and concern for the rights of gifted and talented students and students with disabilities and how to benefit from special education services.
- ✓ Create an appropriate educational and school environment that ensures implementation of the special education programs in coordination with the relevant authorities.
- ✓ Facilitate the process of acceptance and integration of students with special needs in accordance with the recommendations of the special education team.
- ✓ Monitor the programs in place as well as the teachers by visiting them in classrooms to check their work, activities and involvement.
- ✓ Encourage professional and personal development programs for employees with special needs and monitor their training and work.
- ✓ Coordinate with the special education instructor to inspect the school's needs for the professional staff working with people having special needs, and address the educational district in this regard.
- ✓ Cooperate with the Department of Special Education in the Ministry and Directorate of Special Education in the educational district as well as participating in educational meetings, courses and activities.
- ✓ Strengthen relationship with parents and work to create awareness about programs and services for people with special needs within the school and beyond.
- ✓ Report at the end of each semester on special education programs and services existing in the school and document the pros and cons, and submit the same (to the district and the Directorate of Special Education in the Ministry).

- ✓ Make sure that requirements of every student with special needs are met.
- ✓ Coordinate with the concerned parties within and outside the school with respect to the transition of students with special needs to the different academic levels.
- ✓ Organize mechanisms to provide services for students with special needs in resource rooms, and to facilitate the process so that they receive services in these rooms during the school day in coordination with teachers of special education for the resource rooms and subject teachers.
- ✓ Undertake work assigned to him in the field of special education services in the school as deemed appropriate by the Directorate of Special Education in the Ministry.

Role of the Special Education Teacher

In addition to the core functions of Special Education Teacher in accordance with the regulation of the Ministry of Education, it is supposed that the Special Education Teacher will undertake following important tasks:

- ✓ Accept students with special needs and provide them with equal opportunities to learn.
- ✓ Participate in the meetings, training courses, workshops and special activities aimed at improving the quality and delivery of special education programs and services.
- ✓ Monitor the implementation of special education programs and provide periodic reports on the status of these programs and services.
- ✓ Participate as a member of the MET in the educational zone and conduct assessments to determine student's level of academic performance.
- ✓ Collaborate with parents of students with special needs to strengthen the home and school partnership.
- ✓ Monitor and support all instructions as issued by the Director of Special Education of the Ministry of Education.
- ✓ Engage in ongoing professional development to enhance the acquisition of knowledge and skills in the field of special education.

- ✓ Conduct field visits to schools to observe the implementation of inclusive education.
- ✓ Prepare and implement vocational programs at inclusive schools, or at schools that have students with special needs.
- ✓ Coordinate with the subject teachers.
- ✓ Collaborate with other professionals inside the school such as other subject teachers, school administrators and in the community to facilitate the implementation of special education programs.
- ✓ Prepare comprehensive progress reports semi-annually including what has been accomplished during the semester.
- ✓ Collaborate with staff at organizations and educational institutions to identify programs and services for Gifted and Talented students.
- ✓ Perform any other tasks assigned by the Director of Special Education and the zone

Role of Subject Teacher in the Regular Education Classroom

In addition to his main task of teaching, he will, however, undertake the following if a student with special needs is present in his classroom:

- ✓ Accept students with special needs and provide them with the full opportunities to learn.
- ✓ Cooperate with the special education teacher in providing special education services to the students with special needs.
- ✓ Collaborate with parents of students with special needs to strengthen the home and school partnership.
- ✓ Participate in the effective implementation of IEP and ALP and also assist MET with preparing the IEP and ALP.
- ✓ Encourage others to accept the idea of including people with special needs in regular classes.
- ✓ Engage in ongoing professional development to enhance knowledge and skills in the field of special education.

Role of Subject Teacher in the Special Education Classrooms

- ✓ Accept students with special needs and provide them with the full opportunities to learn.
- ✓ Cooperate with the special education teacher in the implementation of the recommendations of the Individual Educational Plan.
- ✓ Collaborate with parents of students with special needs to strengthen the home and school partnership.
- ✓ Modify teaching strategies and materials and evaluation methods as necessary to the needs of students according to the IEP.
- ✓ Participate in ongoing professional development.

Role of Special Education Teacher (*category of Gifted and Talented Students*)

The special education teacher for the Gifted and Talented will develop and implement enrichment programs and services for students with special gifts and talents. Moreover, this teacher will undertake the following tasks:

- ✓ Assist in the identification of students with gifts and talents.
- ✓ Prepare an ALP for the gifted and talented students as needed, in cooperation with other school personnel.
- ✓ Implement teaching strategies to promote the development of the creativity of all students.
- ✓ Organize programs and special activities for gifted and talented students in accordance with the approved programs of the Director of Special Education.
- ✓ Nominate gifted and talented students to participate in indoor and outdoor programs and activities.
- ✓ Application of best practices in the area of talent and excellence.
- ✓ Implement programs to help gifted and talented students develop the abilities for scientific research and its methods.

- ✓ Provide opportunities and educational experiences for students to develop motivation for independent learning.
- ✓ Cooperate with subject teachers in order to design enrichment programs for the gifted and talented students.
- ✓ Develop and implement awareness programs for the school, parents and community of the methods and ways of identifying and developing the skills of gifted and talented students.
- ✓ Collaborate with community organizations and individuals to identify and provide services to the talented students.
- ✓ Collaborate with parents of students with special needs to strengthening the home and school partnership.
- ✓ Engage in ongoing professional development.

Role of Counsellor's (*Psychologist & Social Worker*)

- ✓ To contribute to a member of Student Support Team.
- ✓ To work with teachers when identifying Students of Determination while creating clear channels for communication between parents, teachers and outside agencies.
- ✓ To contribute in the process of identification of Students of Determination.
- ✓ To help teachers for selecting appropriate accommodation and adaptations in teaching.
- ✓ To monitor students' progress.
- ✓ To contribute in the execution of IEP/ILP and ALP.
- ✓ To spread awareness about inclusion.
- ✓ To keep proper records.

Role of Peers of Students of Determination: Peers are encouraged to exchange ideas and information, and provide help to the students with special needs in the learning process. This interaction will lead to acceptance of all students by each other, and contribute to the process of identifying the factors that support inclusion of the student in the school community.

Role of Parents of Students of Determination: Parents should share relevant information about their student with teachers and other school staff members that will help promote the student's growth and inclusion in the school.

Role of Students of Determination: The student with special needs is obliged to follow the program prepared for him according to his educational plan to demonstrate his interest in his educational progress.

Transition

Transitional services include activities designed to prepare the Students of Determination to move from one stage or from one environment to another.

➤ Parents and school personnel are expected to maintain communication to discuss transitions for students between educational levels and programs at least on an annual basis during IEP review or MET meetings.

➤ If a Student of Determination who is enrolled in grades 7th through 9th does not consistently meet the annual revised goals and objectives as set forth in the IEP, and then other educational alternatives including vocational training should be considered to meet his academic and social needs.

➤ However, a Student of Determination should not be transferred from a school to community-based or adult education programs prior to the beginning of the 7th grade unless special circumstances exist which must be reviewed and approved by the Ministry of Education, Special Education department.

Grade Promotion and Retention

- Promotion to the next grade level commensurate with the student's age level is automatic for Students of Determination.
- If the goals and objectives set forth for the student in the IEP are not achieved with satisfactory progress, then the goals and objectives should be revised during the review process.
- It is not permitted to retain or fail students with special needs in a grade.
- If a student with special needs is not making adequate progress, then perhaps the goals and objectives set forth in his IEP far exceed his present level of academic performance and may need to be adjusted.

Admission Procedure for SOD: Students of Determination and other disadvantaged groups are given admission in the school based on the nature of the concern of the students and the provisions available at school to support the child.

Admission procedure for students who are formally identified as SOD and other disadvantaged groups:

- The registrar receives all necessary documents (any medical, educational or psychological assessment report, any relevant document from previous school, including other documents required for admission procedure), for a student's file and then present it to SOD Support Team (SST) for review.
- The student's intake assessment and testing is then scheduled with the Special Educator/ Counsellor by the Registrar.
- The Special Educator/ Counsellor also speak briefly with the parents after the assessment and review the students' performance based on informal assessment.
- The Special Educator/ Counsellor makes a recommendation for placement to section head and Principal, for approval, which depends on the capacity of the school to meet the student's needs.
- Registrar completes formalities and informs the class teacher regarding the placement; the SST is also informed by the Admission's office when a student is placed into a specific classroom.
- The SST, section head and respective teacher confer before the start date of the student in order to discuss any particulars in their file.
- If a student's file includes an IEP or other similar plan from a previous school, SST will review the document(s) and implement as many strategies as possible, while developing an IEP based on the documents provided. If there is no previous plan, the SST assesses and identifies the academic challenges and puts strategies in place in order to help them be as successful as possible at *Habitat school*.

Admission of students who are not formally identified as SOD

- During the time of admission, if the registrar observes significant behavioural or learning concerns with a student, the SST is notified. An informal assessment of the child is done by the SST and parents are met. The SST team Principal and then decides on the status of admission based on the report. The school will decide on what the best level of support is for each

individual case and every effort will be made to admit students who can benefit from the services offered at school.

Learning Support Assistant Policy

Learning Support Assistant (LSA) is recommended only for those Students of Determination who require rigorous and continuous one to one support. The LSA will be hired by the parents but need to be approved by the school Principal, SST and should also fulfill the requirements of Ministry of Education (MOE), to ensure the competence in managing the individual's needs and supporting his/her learning.

Examination Department & SOD

- Receive a copy of the list of SOD who requires specific examination provisions and exemptions.
- Provide a copy of the list to the invigilator and to ensure it is implemented.
- Modified assessment papers to be given to SOD (if required) only on the recommendation of the Special Educator and its encouraged only till *grade four*. Question papers can be read out and extra time can be given to complete the paper.
- Provide seating arrangements conducive to the SOD.

Inclusive practice in school

The school tries to provide effective learning opportunities for all pupils by

a. Setting suitable learning challenges so that pupils experience:

- Success in their own learning;
- A flexibility of approach; and
- Suitably challenging work.

b. Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs by:

- Setting and communicating high expectations and opportunities for achievement for all;

- Planning and delivering lessons that reflect a range of learning and teaching styles, and a recognition of individual pupils' needs;
- Setting appropriate learning objectives and assessment targets;
- Creating effective learning environments;
- Promoting and securing pupil motivation and concentration;
- Providing equality of opportunity through approaches to classroom management and delivery of subject content;
- Using appropriate tools and language for assessment and tracking.

c. Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils by:

- Making provision for pupils to participate effectively in the curriculum; and Planning for SEND and providing access to learning for all pupils.

School Improvement Plan Priorities Related Special Education Programme

- ❖ Create a disability friendly mindset in school (staff and students) – Widen the Students of Determination / Special Education awareness
- ❖ Implement proper identification procedure
- ❖ Make a thorough follow up to monitor the progress of Students of Determination
- ❖ Impart the Accommodation/Adaptation methods to teachers
- ❖ Enhance systematic documentation
- ❖ Occasional self-evaluation