



What do I need to know about Special Educational Needs?

What does having Special Educational Needs and/or a Disability mean (SEND)?

A child has SEND if they have

- A special educational need (SEN) is a difficulty, difference or barrier that affects a child's ability to learn across the curriculum.
- A disability is a longer term health condition which causes a difficulty, difference or barrier to learning and/or accessing the curriculum.

The special needs and disabilities Code of Practice: 0-25 states that:

'A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A child of compulsory school age has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age;

OR

Has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in the mainstream schools or post 16 institutions.'

The four areas of need are

1. Communication and interaction
2. Cognition and Learning
3. Sensory or physical development
4. Social, mental and/or emotional health

These may also include Speech and Language difficulties, ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Downs Syndrome, Turners Syndrome, Global Developmental Delay, Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and Sensory Impairment (loss of hearing or sight) amongst others.

Please see Statutory Documents in the School Information Section for the school's SEND Policy.

What is the SEND register?

The SENCo keeps a list of the children who receive additional support for their educational or medical needs, both within school and with other support agencies. This is known as the SEND register. A child may not always remain on the register and the level of support each child needs may vary at different times. Our aim is to regularly monitor each child closely and change their support as needed.

What happens if my child is put on the SEND register?

- The need is identified and discussed between staff and parents
- Targeted work/ 1-1 and/or small group support provided
- Regular monitoring of progress and achievement (National Curriculum Levels/B Squared assessment)
- If needed, a Home/School Book may be set up to support communication
- Additional Needs Team plan and review support provided
- Short term targets are set for the pupil on an IEP, which are reviewed regularly
- We will agree together the use of any other agencies
- Your child may be referred to other agencies and you will be kept informed
- Further support and advice will be given to home and school
- If there is a severe need, all of the information about your child will be sent to the Additional Needs Team at the County Council. They will decide whether an Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) is needed. (link to 'What is an EHC Plan?')
- A decision is made as to the amount of support and funding that your child may receive

What is an 'Individual Education Plan (IEP)'?

If your child receives additional SEND support they will be given an Individual Education Plan (IEP). This sets out targets and next steps for your child, in addition to the daily classroom activities. It will identify what they need to learn, how they will be helped to achieve it and who will help them. Their targets will be worked on as often as possible and reviewed regularly.

What is an 'Education and Health Care Plan'?

Many children have additional needs, but the majority of these can be supported within school or with the help of other agencies. This level of support is known as 'SEN support'.

However, if your child has severe or complex medical / educational needs (and needs specialist equipment, extra funding or a support adult for some / all of the time) then your child may be given an 'Education and Health Care Plan'.

You and all of the agencies involved with your child will discuss together what support would be appropriate. All of the relevant paperwork will be sent to the local County Council and they will consider your child's case. If they deem that your child needs extra support, an Education and Health Care Plan will be issued. It will set out your child's needs and provide strategies to support them. You will be invited to discuss the support each year at an 'Annual Review'. Please talk to the SENCo for advice about this process.

What is a personal budget?

Education and Health Care Plans for children with severe and complex needs, have often included funding, so that the school can employ an additional adult to support your child.

Education, Health and Care Plans allow for a more flexible approach to funding. You may be offered a 'Personal Budget' that will be discussed between you, the school and the other agencies involved, in order to provide the most appropriate care for your child. This could be used for specialist equipment, adult support, agency services or anything else that will support the education, health and care of your child.

Please speak to the SENCo for more information.