

SEND Support in mainstream schools

This information is about the support that mainstream schools must and should provide for children with special educational needs or a disability (SEND).

The duties on schools

Schools have a duty to make sure that they try their best to meet the needs of children who need extra help (have SEND). This includes using money they are given to:

- Provide extra help from teachers or teaching assistants
- Make sure children have the things they need to learn
- Look at how well children are doing and what they need more help with
- Ask other people for help, such as an educational psychologist or a specialist teacher

What is SEND support?

Every child with special educational needs should have **SEND support**. This means help that is additional to or different from the support generally given to most of the other children of the same age.

Every school must publish a **SEND information report** about how the school provides for children with SEND. You can find this on the school's website or ask the school for a copy.

The [Local Offer](#) also sets out what support Brighter Futures for Children expects early years settings, schools and colleges to make for all children and young people with SEND.

SEND support can mean many things, including:

- a special learning programme for your child
- extra help from a teacher or a learning support assistant
- making or changing materials and equipment
- working with your child in a small group
- observing your child in class or at break and keeping records
- helping your child to take part in the class activities

- making sure your child has understood things by encouraging them to ask questions and to try something they find difficult
- helping other children work with your child, or play with them at break time
- supporting your child with physical or personal care, such as eating, getting around school safely, toileting or dressing.
- advice and/or extra help from specialists such as specialist teachers, educational psychologists, and therapists.

When schools want to call in specialists, they should talk to parents first and make sure they agree.

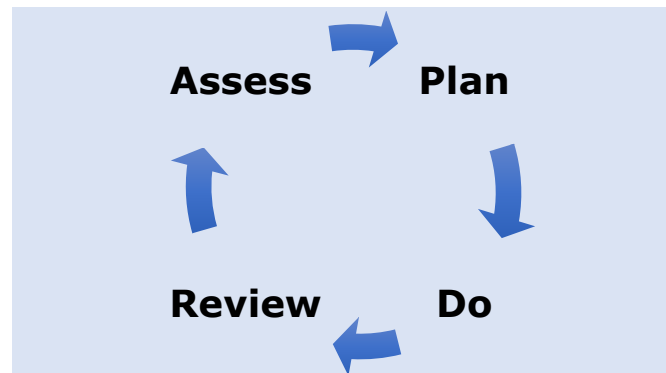
Who decides what SEND support my child has?

The school should decide if your child needs SEND support. The school should talk to you and your child about this. If a young person is 16 or older the school should involve them directly.

Sometimes you might be the one to think that your child has some special educational needs. If you think your child may need SEND support, you should talk to your child's teacher or to the Special Educational Needs Coordinator.

If you are not happy about the support your child has you can ask to talk to the Special Educational Needs Coordinator or headteacher. You can also ask for help to sort out things you are not happy with.

If your child has SEN, the school should take four steps. These are:



Assess

Teaching staff should work with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator to assess your child's needs, so that they give the right support. They should involve you in this and, where they can, ask for your child's views.

Sometimes schools will seek advice from a specialist teacher or a health professional. They should talk to you about this first.

Plan

If the school decides that your child needs SEND support, it **must** tell you. The school should agree with you the outcomes that will be set, what help will be put in place and a date for review.

Do

Your child's class or subject teacher is usually responsible for the work that is done with your child and should work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved. The school should tell you who is responsible for the support your child receives.

Review

The school should review your child's progress, and the difference that the help your child has been given has made, on the date agreed in the plan. You and your child should be involved in the review and in planning the next step.

If your child has not responded to the help they were given, the review should decide what can be done next. This may include more or different help.

Sometimes it helps to involve other professionals to look at the difficulties or to plan the next steps.

You and the school can look at the **Local Offer** to see what support should be available that could help achieve your child's outcomes.

Sometimes the next step may be to ask the local authority for an **EHC needs assessment**. If the school decides to do this, they must tell you. If you think it is needed you can ask for it yourself.

Where can I get more information, advice or support?

You can get in touch with **Reading IASS for SEND** who can give you:

- information about SEND support, including information about SEN funding
- advice about what to do if you are not happy with the support your school is providing
- information about other organisations, support groups and information services that could help
- information and advice about your rights to request an **EHC needs assessment**.