



# Fact Sheet: Parent or carers guide to SEN Support

## ? What does the term SEN Support mean?

SEN Support is the term used to describe the additional provision and legal framework of support given to children/young people that supports them with their identified special educational needs.

This fact sheet will help you understand the basics of the SEN Support framework.



## The legal bit...

The law says that schools must use their best endeavours to make sure children with Special Educational Needs get the extra support they need to achieve as well as they can. Mainstream schools do this through a legally informed system called **SEN Support**. This system sits within the SEND Code of Practice, which is statutory guidance that educational settings must follow. The statutory guidance listed in the SEND Code of Practice come from the law 'The Childrens & Families Act 2014.'

You can find a parents SEND Code of practice on our IAS website.



## Starting out...

If your child's school thinks your child may have SEN and are providing extra help, as a parent you must be notified, this is a legal requirement, the school should give you clear information about the extra help your child is getting.

The SEND Code of Practice says that schools should use a 'graduated approach', or four-part cycle (Assess, Plan, Do and, Review) to support your child with SEN. This means that the SENCO and teaching staff should follow this cycle:

- Assess and identify your child's difficulties.
- Secure the extra support your child needs.
- Put the support in place.
- Regularly check how it is working and make changes if they need to.

The school should meet with you at least three times a year to review how your child is progressing and what the next steps will be. They should use the four part cycle as part of this discussion for review.



## Ongoing...

These interventions should be documented and reviewed using a tool such as an Early Help assessment form, or an individual education plan. Some schools use "provision maps" to detail what they have been doing and how much it has cost.

The school can ask specialist support services, for example, educational psychology, behaviour support, Ladyhood Outreach or speech and language therapy to carry out assessments and provide further advice and support if necessary.



## SEN Funding

All schools are expected to use their SEN notional budget to provide the support that a child needs, up to a cost of £6000. In Bolton, this equates to around 12 hours of 1:1 support.



## Finding Information

Schools must publish online, detailed information about how they support pupils with SEN. They must have a SEN Policy setting out how they support disabled pupils, including how disabled children are included in school activities.



## Who is responsible for SEN in school?

Every mainstream school has a special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) who is responsible for organising extra help for pupils with SEN. The SENCO works with the class teachers to plan the help each child needs.



## Concerns about your child's support?

*Every school is required to identify and address the SEN of the pupils that they support. Mainstream schools must use their best endeavours to make sure that a child with SEN gets the support they need – this means doing everything they can to meet children and young people's SEN.*

*SEND Code of Practice 6.2*

If you are concerned your child is not getting the support they need, you must talk to your child's school first. We would usually recommend in the first instance contacting the SENCO.

Schools have a duty under the Children and Families act to use their “best endeavours” to secure what children need, so simply saying they don't have the money isn't a reason to leave children without support. They must make provision for needs they've assessed.