



BRIGHTFIELD

— A C A D E M Y —

Inclusion. Choice. Growth.

SEND GLOSSARY

TERMS & PHRASES EXPLAINED FOR PARENTS

Understanding the language of SEND and education so you can feel informed, confident and supported.



ADHD

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. A neurodevelopmental difference affecting attention, impulsivity, activity levels and emotional regulation.



AP (ALTERNATIVE PROVISION)

Education outside mainstream school for children whose needs are not currently met in a traditional setting. This can include therapeutic, vocational, outdoor, mentoring or specialist education.



ASD / ASC

Autism Spectrum Disorder / Condition. A neurodevelopmental difference affecting social communication, sensory processing, routines and how a child experiences the world.



CAMHS

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. NHS services that support young people with mental health and emotional wellbeing difficulties.



EHCP

Education, Health and Care Plan. A legal document that outlines a child's needs and the support they must receive.



EHCNA

Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment. The process your local authority follows to decide whether your child needs an EHCP.



EBSA

Emotionally Based School Avoidance. When a child finds it difficult to attend school due to anxiety, distress or overwhelming emotions.



PDA

Persistent Drive for Autonomy (previously Pathological Demand Avoidance). A profile associated with autism where individuals experience high anxiety around demands and expectations.



TRAUMA-INFORMED

An approach that understands behaviour in the context of past experiences and prioritises safety, trust, choice and connection.



SECTION 19

Part of the Education Act 1996. Local Authorities must provide suitable education for children who cannot attend school due to illness, exclusion or other reasons.



SEND

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. A broad term covering children and young people who need additional support to access education.



SENDIAS

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service. An independent service providing free advice to parents and young people about SEND matters.





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SENCO / SENDCO

Special Educational Needs Coordinator. The staff member responsible for coordinating SEND support in a school.



SALT / SaLT

Speech and Language Therapy. Support for communication, speech, language understanding and social communication.



OT (OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY)

Occupational Therapy. Support that helps children develop skills for daily living, sensory processing, coordination and independence.



SEMH

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs. Challenges related to emotional wellbeing, mental health, trauma, attachment or behaviour.



REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Changes and adaptations made to help a child access education on an equal basis.



REGULATION / DYSREGULATION

Regulation is when a child is in a calm, manageable state. Dysregulation is when feelings and behaviour become overwhelming and harder to manage.



IEP (INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN)

A plan that sets out targets and the support strategies in place to help a child progress.



LA (LOCAL AUTHORITY)

The council responsible for SEND processes, EHCPs, school attendance duties and wider support services.



TRIBUNAL

A legal process where parents can appeal a decision made by the Local Authority about an EHCP or placement.



KCSIE

Keeping Children Safe in Education. Statutory guidance for schools and education providers on safeguarding.



TEAM AROUND THE CHILD (TAC)

A meeting where professionals, the family and the child work together to plan support.



TRANSITION

The process of moving between settings, classes or phases of education.



PROVISION

The support, strategies, interventions or environment provided to help a child access learning.



OUTCOMES

The expected difference that support and provision should make for a child. Good outcomes are specific and meaningful.



WIDER PROFESSIONALS YOU MAY ENCOUNTER

Educational Psychologist (EP), Social Care, School Nurse, Early Help, MASH, Speech & Language Therapist, Youth Workers and more.

