

What are special educational needs?

The term 'special educational needs' has a legal definition. Children with special educational needs have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children of the same age. These children may need extra or different help from that given to other children of the same age.

Children with special educational needs may need extra help because of a range of needs, such as thinking and understanding, physical or sensory difficulties, emotional and behavioural difficulties, or difficulties with speech and language or how they relate to and behave with other people.

Many children will have special educational needs of some kind at some time during their education.

A few children will need extra help for some or all of their time in school. Special educational needs could mean that a child has difficulty with:

- all of the work in school
- reading, writing, number work or understanding information
- expressing themselves or understanding what others are saying
- making friends or relating to adults
- behaving properly in school
- organising themselves
- some kind of sensory or physical needs which may affect them in school

Working within the Guidelines of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (DfES 2001)

SCHOOL ACTION ...

Where students require some kind of additional or different support from that which is normally provided. The next section describes the variety of support which we can offer, according to individual needs.

SCHOOL ACTION PLUS ...

In consultation with parents, we may feel it would be in the best interests of the student to seek advice and support from an outside agency, for example, an Educational Psychologist, a Behaviour Support Teacher, a Speech and Language Therapist, an Occupational Therapist or a Support Teacher for the Sensory-Impaired.

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLANS

These may be drawn up to include information about:

- ★ The student's needs
- ★ The provision to be put in place
- ★ Suggested teaching strategies,
- ★ Short-term targets
- ★ Parental involvement
- ★ When the plan is to be reviewed

STATEMENTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ...

In a small number of cases, a child's needs are severe and / or complex and a Statement is drawn up by the LEA. Support will be provided, then monitored and evaluated through the Annual Review process, with additional Transition Plans from the age of 14.

How do we support your child?

We will contact you if we have concerns about your child.

We will listen to your concerns and those of your child.

We will work with you to meet the needs identified.

We may offer:

- ★ Individual or Group Education Plans
- ★ Withdrawal for learning support by specialist SEN teachers
- ★ In-class support from our learning support team
- ★ Individual or group support from Learning Mentors
- ★ Homework Clubs
- ★ Equipment and ICT loans
- ★ Mentoring
- ★ Study Guides
- ★ Time in S.T.A.R., our 'Support, Teaching And Reintegration' base
- ★ Access to support from a variety of outside agencies
- ★ ASDAN lifeskills or other alternatively accredited courses

