

NORTHUMBERLAND

C O U N T Y C O U N C I L

Special Educational Needs

Children with **special educational needs (SEN)** have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children of the same age.

Many children (about 1 in 5) will have special educational needs at some time during their education. They may need extra help or different help from that given to other children of the same age.

The **Special Educational Needs Code of Practice** is a government guide for identifying and meeting children's special educational needs. It states that:

- All children with special educational needs should have their needs met.
- The special educational needs of children are usually met in mainstream schools or settings.
- The views of children should be sought and taken into account.
- Parents* have a vital role to play in their child's education.
- Children with special educational needs should be offered full access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.

The Code of Practice identifies a **graduated approach** which recognises that children learn in different ways and can have different kinds or levels of special educational need.

A small number of children who have complex special educational needs (nationally about 2% of school-aged children) will require a **Statement of Special Educational Needs**, a document which describes a child's special educational needs and the provision they should receive.

The Local Authority is required to delegate funding to schools in Northumberland to support pupils with a broad range of special educational needs. Most children with special educational needs will not need a Statement because their needs can be met from within the school's resources.

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PROCESS	WHAT HAPPENS	WHAT PARENTS CAN DO
Identification of possible Special Educational Needs	Concerns are raised about a child's progress.	Provide information on your child and work in partnership with the professionals involved.
Assessment	Assessments are made to look at your child's attainments and progress.	Keep records of all information received or sent.
Differentiation of the curriculum	The teacher makes changes to how the curriculum is presented; taking into account a child's learning needs.	Share information on what you think might help your child. Find out how the curriculum will be differentiated. Check progress
School Action and Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Provision Map	The teacher provides help that is extra or different to the normal curriculum. Parents should be informed about what help will be given, who will provide it, short term targets, review arrangements and how they can help.	Monitor progress with the teacher or Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO). Keep records of all information received or sent. Check how the targets will be monitored. Support your child at home.
School Action Plus and new IEP or Provision Map	The school consults parents about asking for advice from external support services.	Continue to give input and support. Discuss any concerns Work in partnership with involved professionals.
Request for Statutory Assessment - a detailed investigation of a child's special educational needs. Can be requested by schools or by parents.	The Local Authority decides whether to go ahead with a statutory assessment based on evidence provided by the school on a child's SEN and what has been done to help the child make progress.	Discuss how to help your child with the professionals involved. Give your views. Keep records of everything. You have appeal rights to the SEN and Disability Tribunal (SEND) if the Local Authority decides not to carry out a statutory assessment.
Statutory Assessment	The Local Authority requests advice from parents and involved professionals and decides whether a statement is required.	Contribute advice for the statutory assessment.
Statement of SEN	The Local Authority produces a statement – a legal document which describes a child's SEN and the provision they should receive.	Give your views. You have appeal rights to SEND if you do not agree with the contents of the final Statement. The Statement will be reviewed on an annual basis, although you can ask for an earlier review if you are concerned about your child's progress. Contribute to the review.
Note in Lieu	When a statement is deemed unnecessary the Local Authority will explain their reasons.	Give your views. You have appeal rights to SEND if you do not agree with the Local Authority decision.