

# SEN SUPPORT IN SCHOOLS



Giving  
**disabled children**  
a brighter future

# CONTENTS

**Pg 3** What is SEN Support?  
Who can get SEN Support?

**Pg 4** SEN Support  
SEN Information Report

**Pg 5** A Graduated Approach

**Pg 6** A Graduated Approach  
Transition

**Pg 7** SEN Support in the early  
years

**Pg 8** SEN Support in college

# What is SEN Support?

Every child with Special Educational Needs should have SEN support. This means help that is additional to or different from the support generally given to other children of the same age.

The purpose of SEN Support is to help children achieve the outcomes or learning objectives set for them by the school. Schools should involve parents in this process.

# Who can get SEN Support?

All educational settings, nurseries, schools, colleges and further education must make sure they meet the “reasonable” Special Educational Needs of children and young people they identify as needing extra support. Most educational settings should be able to meet the needs of most children with additional needs.

Most children and young people with mild additional needs will not require an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC plan) and can be supported successfully by their education setting. However some children and young people with complex disabilities may require an EHC plan. An EHC plan is used when a child displays less than expected progress, due to a wide range of difficulties.

# SEN Support

SEN Support can take place in many forms 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
- Helping your child with physical or personal care, such as eating, getting around school safely, toileting or dressing.

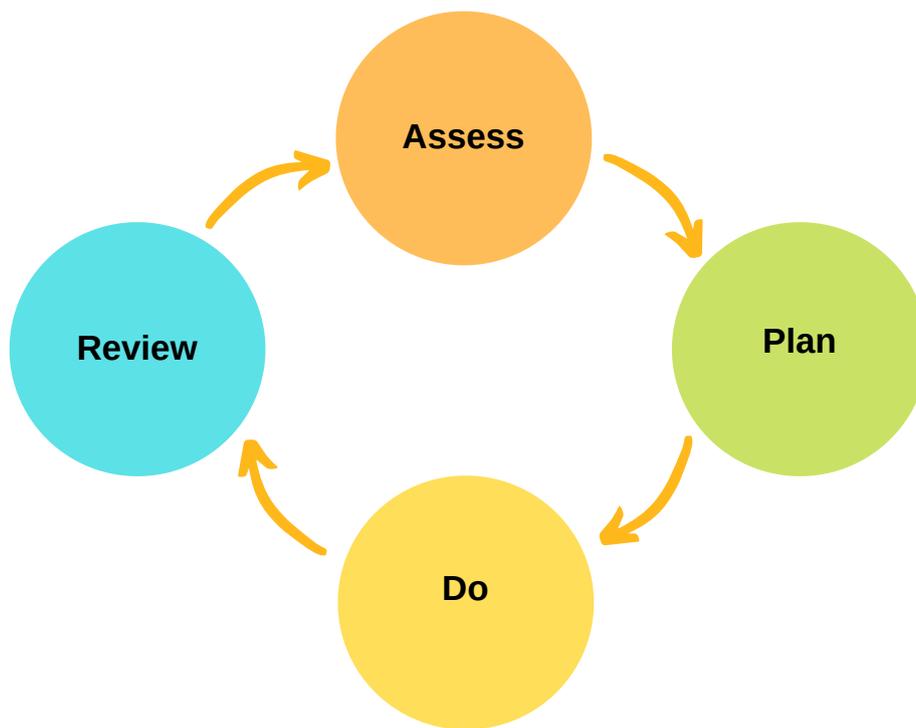
Schools may also involve specialists to advise them on effective support and interventions.

# SEN Information Report

Every school must publish an SEN Information Report about the SEN provision the school makes. You can find this on the school's website. You can also ask your child's teacher or the school's SENCO for information on the SEND provision made by the school.

# A Graduated Approach

When your child is identified as having SEN, the education setting should take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. The SEN support should be based on the graduated approach based on four steps. These are:



## Assess

Teaching staff should work with the SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) to assess your child's needs, so they can give the right support. They should involve you in this process and, wherever possible. Sometimes schools will seek advice from a specialist teacher or a health professional.

## Plan

If the school decides that your child needs SEN support they must tell you. The school should talk with you about the outcomes that will be set, what help will be provided and agree a date for progress to be reviewed.

## Do

Your child's 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.

All those who work with your child should be made aware of:

- Their needs
- The agreed outcomes
- The support being provided
- The teaching strategies that are required.

## 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.

## Transition

SEN support should include planning and preparing for transition, before a child/young person moves into another setting or school. This can also include a review of the SEN support being provided or the EHC plan. To support the transition, information should be shared by the current setting with the receiving setting or school. The current setting should agree with parents the information to be shared as part of this planning process.

# SEN support in the early years

It is essential that there is no delay in making any necessary special educational provision especially in the early years. Delays at this stage can cause learning difficulty, loss of self-esteem, frustration in learning and behavioural difficulties. It is essential that the needs of your child are met for future progress and to prepare your child for adult life.

Parents must be informed if the maintained nursery school has made a special educational provision. The school should meet with parents of the child at least three times a year.

Sometimes it helps to involve other professionals in further assessment or to support planning the next steps. If your child has not made reasonable progress it will be important to agree with the school what should happen next.

# SEN support in college

The college must do its best to put appropriate support in place for students that have additional needs. Young people should be supported to participate in all discussions about their aspirations, needs, and support they think will help them.

Support should be aimed at promoting student independence and enabling the young person to make good progress towards employment and/or higher education, independent living, good health and participating in the community. The college should keep the needs of students with SEN under regular review.

Special educational support in college might include:

- Assistive technology
- Personal care (or access to it)
- Specialist tuition
- Note takers
- Interpreters
- One-to-one and small group learning support
- Habilitation/independent living training
- Accessible information such as symbol based materials
- Access to therapies (for example, speech and language therapy)

## Contact Us

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) provides free impartial, confidential and accurate information, advice and support about education, health and social care for children, young people and their parents on matters relating to special educational needs and disability.

Contact your local SENDIASS to find out more about SEN Support in schools.

Visit our SENDIASS website: <https://www.kids.org.uk/sendiasm>