



SEN Parents Guide September 2024

Be courageous; be strong.

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Special Educational Needs Information for Parents and Carers

What are Special Educational Needs?

A child may have a special education need (SEN) if they require additional or different provision to support them in their learning. A child may have difficulty in reading, writing or mathematics, understanding others and expressing themselves, sensory perception or physical mobility or difficulties communicating with others. These difficulties cause barriers to the child's learning. For some children this may be a temporary difficulty, while others may have a long term need for special help.

My child is on the SEN register. What happens now?

If your child is identified with a special need they will be placed on our school's SEN register at SEN SUPPORT level of provision. In September 2014 a new statutory document was introduced '0-25 years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice 2014'. This code sets out how children and young adults with special educational needs and disabilities should be supported.

Further guidance on the new code from the Department for Education can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers

The school will work in partnership with you as the parent or carer to assess your child to identify their strengths, needs and the extra help they require. Your child will be set targets each term so that their progress can be monitored closely. These targets will be discussed and reviewed with you at parents' evenings or SEN reviews throughout the year. SEN reviews will usually be held by your child's class teacher and any other members of staff who support your child in school.

Who helps my child with their SEN?

- The class teacher
- The teaching assistant
- The SENCo (The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator)

Who may become involved with my child from outside the school?

Experts from outside agencies may be asked to assess your child's needs if they continue to have difficulties or if further assessment is required. The SENCo may ask for your permission to seek additional advice from outside specialists such as health professionals, specialist teachers or educational psychologists who would:

- Carry out further assessment of your child's needs
- Provide advice to schools on how to best support your child
- Suggest resources that would help your child make progress

Parents are wherever possible offered the opportunity to meet with these professionals during SEN reviews to discuss the results of their assessment.

What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?

If your child's needs are complex the school may ask the local authority, in collaboration with you as the parent or carer, to carry out an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment. This is only appropriate for a very small number of pupils and the SENCo and The Parent Partnership Service will be able to guide you through the process should this be necessary. This assessment could lead to your child getting a Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan. This EHC plan brings all of your child's education, health and social care needs into one legal document. It replaces the previous STATEMENT of SEN from the 2001 code of practice. Further guidance on EHC plans can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers

Who can I talk to?

If you are at all concerned about your child's needs their class teacher will be more than happy to discuss this with you at a mutually convenient time. You can also talk to Mrs Francis and Mrs Ellwood who are the joint special coordinator for special educational needs in school (SENCOs). Please ring school on 0191 285 2663 to make an appointment. Our role is to support children and parents to ensure the needs of your child are being met.

You can also find more detailed information about our school's policies and support on our website.

If you would like any independent support or advice about any aspect of your child's Special Educational Needs please contact SENDIASS on 0191 211 6255 or email SENDIASSadmin@newcastle.gov.uk

Additionally you can find a range of support service that are offered in Newcastle by visiting the Local Offer website. There are a range of service and contacts listed from the voluntary sector, health, social care and education services.

<https://www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk/kb5/newcastle/fsd/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>