



How children with Special Educational Needs are supported in Schools

The Graduated Approach

It is important that Special Educational Needs (SEN) are identified early so that your child can be helped as quickly as possible. The SEN Code of Practice describes how this help should be made by a step-by-step approach or 'graduated approach'. This approach recognises that children learn in different ways and have different levels of special educational needs.

For most pupils extra help will be provided in the classroom, managed by the class teacher - this could be by working with the rest of the class, in small groups or on a one-to-one basis with a teacher or teaching assistant. Different actions may need to be taken for pupils at **School Action**, **School Action Plus** or those with **Statements of SEN**.

School Action

The school must tell you when they start giving extra or different help to your child because they have special needs. At this point you may wish to contact Parent Partnership. The class teacher will involve the Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). In consultation with you, the SENCO and the class teacher will draw up an individual education plan for your child. The Individual Education Plan (IEP), sets out:

- your child's difficulties
- what special help will be given
- how often your child will receive the help
- short term targets for him/her to achieve
- details of who will work with your child and what materials might be needed
- how and when your child's progress will be reviewed
- What help you could give your child at home.

The school will review the IEP at least twice a year and ideally termly. School Action will continue until it is no longer needed or it is decided that your child needs additional support at School Action Plus.

School Action Plus

If your child does not make enough progress at School Action, the SENCO may decide to involve outside professionals such as a specialist teacher, an educational psychologist, speech and language therapist or other health professionals. These professionals may advise the school on how to work with your child, they may provide an additional specialist assessment or they may work directly with your child. They will help to set new targets for the pupil's IEP. This sort of help is called School Action Plus. The SENCO should keep you informed about how your child is getting on and should include you in any discussions about the help that is provided.

School Action Plus will continue until it is no longer needed or it is decided that the Local Authority should carry out a **statutory** (legal) **assessment** of the pupil's SEN. Any such decision will be made in consultation with you. It is at this stage that the LEA will become involved for the first time.

Only a very small number of pupils will have needs which are so complex that a **Statement of SEN** is required.