



SEND Code of Practice

Summary

Pupils and families have more of a say

The new system aims to put young people and their families at the centre of discussions about the support they receive. The planning and assessment process should use clear language and be easy for families to understand. Young people also have new rights: when they reach 16, they will generally be consulted directly about their support, and their views will usually take precedence over those of their parents.

Education, health and care plans replace statements

Special educational needs (SEN) statements and learning difficulty assessments (LDAs) are being replaced with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#), which cover children and young people until the age of 25 where special education provision is still required to meet the young person's education outcomes. As of September 2014, new assessments of SEN will follow the new rules, and support will be provided through an EHC plan. Existing statements and LDAs will remain in force until all children and young people have completed the transition. Transfers from statements to EHC plans should be completed within three years. This means that in the case of pupils who already receive support, you will need to follow the old guidelines until September 2017 for LDAs or April 2018 for Statements. No-one should lose their statement and not have it replaced with an EHC plan simply because the system is changing.

New single-category SEN support

School Action and School Action Plus have been removed in the new code. They will be replaced by a single school-based category called 'SEN support'. This means that schools will take a graduated approach to SEN support, in the form of a four-stage cycle of assessment, planning, carrying out the intervention, and reviewing outcomes in successive cycles.

Optional personal budgets for young people

Young people and parents of children who have EHC plans can choose to request a personal budget with which to buy in the support identified. Where this is possible and agreed, the money for SEN provision will come from the high-needs funding block and will not normally affect the school's notional SEN budget. Health and Social Care can also contribute to a Personal Budget.

The local offer

Local authorities are now obliged to publish a [local offer](#) with information about the available provision and how to access it. The aim of this is to make provision more responsive to the needs of young people with SEN. Schools are required to co-operate with the Local Authority in the development and review of the Local Offer.

The SEN Information Report

Under the new SEND Code of Practice, schools are required to publish an annual SEN Information Report, on their school website, setting out how they have implemented their SEN policy. The SEN Information Report must be cross referenced to the School's Accessibility Plan and how the school meets its duties under the Equality Act 2010 (and updates issued in 2012).