

Funding for Special Educational Needs in mainstream schools

The SEND Code of Practice 6.2 says schools must:

'Use their best endeavours to make sure that a child with SEN gets the support they need—this means doing everything they can to meet children and young people's SEN'

Schools should use some of their budget to buy resources and make provision for children who need additional support. This can take many forms. For example children might need:

- Some changes to the curriculum
- Special equipment or teaching materials
- The use of additional information technology
- Small group work
- Extra support in the class
- A base to work in or have quiet time.

There are three different elements to funding for SEND:

Element 1:

All schools get money for each pupil attending the school - this is called Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU). Some of this money is spent on making general SEND provision. For example this could be used for providing the special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) and some other general resources.

Element 2:

This is additional support from what most children get, and is part of the schools delegated budget. Government guidance says that school should provide **up to** £6000 of additional or different support for those children who need it - this does not mean that the school will spend £6000 on every child with special educational needs. Sometimes schools use some of the funding to help groups of children as opposed to singular children. You can ask the school how they use their budget to support SEN children if you wish. The Shropshire Local Offer also explains what type of resources this could be spent on.

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/media/7175/shropshire-provision-for-send-a-guide-for-mainstream-schools.pdf>

Element 3:

Some children have such complex needs that the school may need to request some additional funding to 'top-up' Elements 1 & 2. This is sometimes called the 'high-needs' block which is managed by the Local Authority and can be used to secure a high level of specific provision for a child. Funding can be allocated to schools through the 'Graduated Support Pathway' or an 'Education Health & Care Plan' (EHCP).

Graduated Support Pathway

Schools can request additional funding without the need for an EHCP from the Local Authority. A decision is made on an individual basis by a multi-agency panel based on evidence provided by school. If funding is agreed it can be allocated to schools in increments of £500 & the provision to be put in place is detailed in a Graduated Support Plan (GSP). This will be monitored and reviewed.

Education Health & Care Plans (EHCP)

Schools, parents or young people can request a statutory assessment of needs for an Education Health & Care Plan. If a plan is issued following assessment funding is allocated to schools in increments of £1000 to support the provision listed in the EHCP. A multi-agency panel determines the level of funding required based on the need, outcomes & provision identified within the EHCP.

How can I find out what support and resources my child is getting?

Speak to your child's teacher or SENCO & ask for a written copy of any support plan (this is usually called a Person Centred Plan (PCP), Child Centred Plan (CCP) or something similar. A provision map, which might be costed (Costed Provision Map) should also be in place for your child. If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan it should set out the support and resources that are provided.

Where can I get further information, advice or support?

Contact the IASS team on:

Phone: 01743 280019 (Open 10am-4pm Monday—Friday)

Web: www.cabshropshire.org.uk

www.facebook.com/IASSShropshire

Email: iass@cabshropshire.org.uk

Address: Fletcher House, 15 College Hill, Shrewsbury, SY1 1LY