

What to expect from school if your child has SEND

All pupils attending school or college are entitled to receive a level of teaching which accommodates for individual needs. Schools and colleges should differentiate the curriculum to enable all pupils to access it. However, for some pupils, this approach may not be enough and they will need to access a higher level of support in order to make the expected progress. Schools have a notional SEN funding budget of up to £6000 per child which allows them to provide a higher level of support for those identified as needing it. This support is called SEN support.

What does the law say?

The SEND Code of Practice (2015) states *“High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will meet the individual needs of the majority of children and young people. Some children and young people need educational provision that is additional to or different from this. This is special educational provision under Section 21 of the Children and Families Act 2014.”*

The SEND Code of Practice also says that where a pupil is identified as having SEN, 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 *‘take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place.’*

This should happen through ongoing assessing, planning, doing and reviewing. This process is known as the graduated approach.

The Graduated Approach

If your child’s school have identified that your child has SEN and feel that it is appropriate for them to access some SEN provision, they must inform you and involve you in the decisions made about your child. They must also inform and seek involvement from the school’s Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo). It is good practice for schools to invite you in for a meeting at this point

and that the SENCo attends this meeting.

SEN support is based around the specific needs of a child or young person. Provision, staff, equipment and resources to support your child should be decided using what is known as the graduated approach. This is an assess, plan, do, review cycle which requires schools to:

- ASSESS what support they need
- PLAN the support
- DO the support set out in the plan
- REVIEW how well it's working

This information should be written down in a plan outlining short term outcomes or goals and what will be provided to meet these outcomes. You should be provided with a copy of this plan so request one from school if you don't have one. This plan must be used by all staff working with your child and reviewed and updated regularly with you and your child's involvement. You should expect at least 1 meeting a term so it is always a good idea to arrange a date to review the plan at each meeting.

If your child continues to find aspects of their learning difficult, they are not meeting their short term outcomes, making the expected progress or school are unsure how to further support your child, school should seek advice from a specialist such as a Learning Support Advisory Teacher (LSAT) an Educational Psychologist (EP) Woodlands Outreach etc. An assessment of your child's needs can then be arranged and specific interventions recommended.

What are the next steps beyond SEN support?

For most children with SEND, the support accessed through SEN support will be sufficient in meeting their needs. However, if your child is still not making expected progress despite receiving a high level of intervention over a period of time, your school may need to look at requesting top up funding from the Local Authority through the graduated support pathway or requesting an education, health and care needs assessment from the Local Authority. If you feel this might be case, discuss this with your child's school or contact IASS for further advice.

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