



HOW DO I GET MY CHILD EXTRA SUPPORT IN SCHOOL?

Sometimes children with special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities require extra help and support in school. The school can provide this in various ways, dependent upon the child's needs. If you believe your child requires extra support, you can request a meeting with the school to discuss what strategies they can put into place to help your child. Each school, by law, is required to have a **SEN Policy (which should be published on their website)** and is the most important document that a school develops when determining how they will meet the **special educational needs (SEN)** of pupils. It must reflect the statutory requirements and the actual practice of the school. Most children with special educational needs (SEN) go to a mainstream school.

The law says that schools must do everything they can to make sure children with SEN get the extra support they need to achieve as well as they can. Mainstream schools do this through a system called SEN support.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS – HOW ARE THEY MADE?

Quite often your child may only require “**reasonable adjustments**” in order to fully access the curriculum and will not need full SEN support. There are many reasonable adjustments a school can make which don't require any extra funding or involve the local authority.

Reasonable adjustments mean changes a school can make to ensure disabled pupils can participate in their education and enjoy the other facilities that the school provides. This could be as simple as moving a child nearer to the front of the class in order to limit distractions, allowing a child extra time to change for PE or allowing a child extra homework time. It is up to the school to determine what a reasonable adjustment is. Much of the time reasonable adjustments don't require any formal paperwork or extra funding from the local authority.

I'VE HEARD OF SEN SUPPORT & ONE PLANNING, WHAT ARE THEY?

Students who continue to face challenges in school are likely to need additional support to help their learning. They will access this through **SEN support**. This involves strategies and different types of provision, in order to meet their needs. SEN support takes the form of a four-part cycle **assess, plan, do, review**. In Essex this is referred to as One Planning and is centred around the child's emotional and academic progress.

One Planning should involve professionals, parents and the child/YP and any other person who has a significant role in the learning and development of the child.

If a child continues to need support a school will apply for an EHCP. Parent/carers can request an EHCP if they feel their child is not making adequate progress through the One Planning system.

WHAT IS AN EHCP?

An **E**ducation **H**ealth **C**are **P**lan (EHCP) is a legal document which was introduced to support children and young people with SEN in 2014 (replacing Statements of Education). An EHCP puts the child and family at the centre of the approach, in other words it is “person centred” and should always be created with the child in mind. Unlike previous strategies, parent/carers have more input in creating it and are involved in the process of the Needs Assessment. The EHC assessment is a detailed look at your child’s special educational needs and Disabilities, SEND, and the support he or she may need in order to learn.

An EHCP contains around 11 different sections. The format can change from local authority to local authority but legally they must contain a number of separate sections that are relevant to your child’s needs and should include the child’s aspirations, needs, outcomes and provisions. **Section A** details the child/YP’s Aspirations; **Section B, C and D** relate to the Needs of the child/YP; Section F, G H1 and H2, outline the provision which should meet the child’s Needs; and Section E addresses the child’s outcomes.

Before the EHCP is finalised, the LA will send a draft plan. If you are unhappy about the contents of the draft EHCP, you can request changes (You can also request changes to be made to your EHCP at an Annual Review).

If the LA refuse to make the changes you can appeal via a SEND Tribunal.

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER HELP AND INFORMATION?

Families InFocus provide a free Independent SEND information, Advice and Support Service to any Essex Family of a child/young person (0-25) with any special educational need or disability.

Our Family support Advisers provide support via telephone/email helpline, face to face, drop-ins, advice surgeries and outreach through home visits/meetings (subject to availability). Our details can be found below.

Other sources of help and support available include:

National Helpline from Contact (formally Contact a Family): Tel 0808 808 3555 contact.org.uk

SENDIASS Essex: Tel 0333 013 8913 or visit send.ias@essex.gov.uk

Essex Local Offer: www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk

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