

Introduction

This is one of a series of information resources for parents and carers in North Lincolnshire. They are intended to offer an introduction to parts of the *Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice* and to complement the Department for Education (DfE) Parents' Guide.

Each booklet is available on the Local Offer website (www.northlincslocaloffer.com/SENDIASS) and will also be available on the forthcoming Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) website.

All titles in the series contain hyperlinks to other relevant information and look-ups to words explained in the online glossary. Throughout the booklets:

- words included in the glossary are marked in **bold**
- quotes are referenced and presented in *italics*.
- hyperlinks are underlined.

Additional references to other sources of information, advice and support are included at the back of the booklet.

Funding for special educational needs in mainstream schools

This information is about funding for special educational needs (SEN) in mainstream schools. This includes academies and free schools.

What is SEN funding for?

The *SEND Code of Practice* 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. (6.2)

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

- changes to the curriculum
- special equipment or teaching materials
- the use of additional information technology
- small group work
- support in the classroom
- a base to work in or have quiet time.

Where does funding for SEN come from?

All mainstream schools receive money for special educational needs support and resources. Schools can decide how to spend this money. This is called “delegated” funding because it is given (delegated) to schools by local authorities or the **Education Funding Agency** from money they receive from central government. The SEN part of the school’s income is sometimes called the “notional” SEN budget because it is not based on the school’s actual numbers of pupils with special needs, but on a formula.

Funding for SEN provision is from three sources (“elements”):

Element 1

Schools get money for each pupil, based on actual pupil numbers. This is called the **Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)** and it is part of schools’ delegated funding. Some of this money is for general SEN provision. This might, for example, include the cost of providing the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and some other resources.

Each local authority sets the AWPU for their schools, and the Education Funding Agency sets the AWPU for academies and free schools. The AWPU differs according to whether the school is primary or secondary etc.

Element 2

Element 2 funding is SEN-specific, and is to provide **SEN support** for children who need it. This is support that is additional to or different from the support that most other children get.

The local authority provides this funding for schools it is responsible for using a formula that determines the amount of money the school gets. The formula gives more money to schools that in the past had more children on free school meals and more children who were not doing as well as others in English and Maths. The **Education Funding Agency** provides this funding for academies and free schools. Element 2 funding is also part of schools’ delegated budget.

Government guidance says schools should provide up to the first £6,000 (on top of the AWPU) of additional or different support for those children who need it, including those with an **Education, Health and Care plan** (or a **Statement of Special Educational Need**). This does not mean that the school will spend £6,000 on every child with SEN. Sometimes schools use funds to help groups of children. Some children will need less help – and some children

may need more.

You can ask your school how it uses its SEN budget to support your child and whether it has enough to make all the provision they need. The local authority also publishes a **Local Offer** that explains what type of resources this money might be spent on.

Element 3

Where a school has children needing very expensive provision which might absorb a lot of the SEN support funding, the school can request additional funding. The local authority is responsible for managing Element 3 funding (sometimes called the 'high needs block'), which can be used to make specific provision for an individual child or a group of children, if the school or academy can show it is necessary.

You can find details of how this funding is allocated in the **Local Offer**.

These funding arrangements do not override the local authority's duty to your child to ensure they receive any necessary provision that the school itself cannot make. The law says that the local authority must find out via an **EHC needs assessment** whether an EHC plan is needed when a child or young person may have SEN that may need the local authority to secure provision. So if your school is unable to make all the provision your child needs, you have the right to ask for an EHC needs assessment.

Who manages the school's SEN resources?

The *SEND Code of Practice* says:

It is for schools, as part of their normal budget planning, to determine their approach to using their resources to support

the progress of pupils with SEN. The SENCO, headteacher and governing body or proprietor should establish a clear picture of the resources that are available to the school. They should consider their strategic approach to meeting SEN in the context of the total resources available, including any resources targeted at particular groups, such as the pupil premium. (6.97)

School governors are responsible for the school's policy on SEN. The headteacher and the SENCO ensure that the policy is put into practice. The SENCO organises support for individual children, but every teacher is responsible for making sure that your child's special educational needs are met in the classroom.

The **SEN Information Report** on the school's website tells you more about the arrangements for SEN support and how to contact the SENCO.

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

The first step is to talk with your child's teacher or the SENCO. This may be at a parents' evening, a support plan meeting or a review. You can ask for a written copy of any support plan in place for your child.

If your child has an Education, Health and Care plan (or Statement of Special Educational Need) it must set out the support and resources that must be provided.

Where can I get further information, advice or support?

Look for the SEN Information Report on the school website.

The Local Offer is the place to find out about services available locally and the arrangements that schools and others are expected to make for children and young people with SEN.

SENDIASS can also give you:

- more information about SEN support and funding
- advice about what to do if you are not happy with the support your school is providing
- information about other organisations, support groups and services that could help
- information and advice about your rights to request an EHC needs assessment if your child might need more than the school can provide.

There are also a number of national organisations that have produced information about SEN funding. These include:

Council for Disabled Children: *School funding changes and children with SEN in mainstream schools: a briefing for parents:* https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/import/cdc_funding_briefing_for_parents_-_final.pdf

Independent Parental Special Education Advice (IPSEA): *SEN Funding Legal Briefing:* www.ipsea.org.uk/news/2013/changes-to-sen-funding-in-schools

SEN Information Organisations Group: *Top School SEN funding Myths:* http://www.cafamily.org.uk/media/690094/education_top_school_sen_funding_myths.pdf

A list of organisations that provide information and advice about SEND is available here: www.northlincslocaloffer.com/SENDIASS

Special Educational Needs & Disability

For further information:

SENDIASS

Hewson House, Brigg
North Lincolnshire, DN20 8XJ

Telephone: **01724 277665**

Email: help@nlsendiass.org.uk

Web: www.northlincslocaloffer.com/SENDIASS



No English?

For information please call:

08000 193530 (Arabic) للحصول على المزيد من المعلومات اتصل بـ:

তথ্যগুলি বাংলায় জানতে হলে এই নম্বরে ফোন করুন: 08000 193531 (Bengali)

欲知粵語版的消息，請致電: 08000 193532 (Cantonese)

हिन्दी में जानकारी के लिये 08000 193533 पर फोन करें (Hindi)

بۆ زانیاری به کوردی سۆرانی تەلهفۆن بۆ 08000 193537 بکە. (Kurdish Sorani)

Para mais informação em português contacte-nos através do telefone 08000 193538 (Portuguese)

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਸਾਹੁਵਾਦੀ ਲਈ 08000 193539 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ (Punjabi)

“Warbixinta oo af Soomaali ah wac 08000 193540” (Somali)

08000 193541 اردو میں انفارمیشن کے لیے اس ٹیلیفون نمبر پر رابطہ فرمائیں۔ (Urdu)

Nie mówisz po angielsku? Po informacji zadzwoń pod numer 08000 195587 (Polish)

Не знаете английский? Для информации звоните 08000 195586 (Russian)

For information in alternative formats or to request a signer or interpreter to speak to us please contact **01724 296629**