

Funding for SEN

- in mainstream schools

Please note: 'child' = 'child or young person'

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 (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 the child's SEN".

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:

- some 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?

There are 3 different elements of funding that mainstream schools can receive to meet the needs of those with SEN:

Element 1 - All schools get money for each pupil at the school. This is called the 'Basic Entitlement Funding' and is part of schools delegated funding. Some of this money is to make general SEN provision. This might, for example, include the cost of providing the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) and some other resources.

Element 2 - This part of the school's income is sometimes called the notional SEN budget and is to help with SEN support and resources. Although it is not ringfenced, schools must account for how they have spent this money. Government guidance says schools should provide up to the first £6,000 of additional or different support for those children who need it, including those with an Education, Health and Care plan.

The school does not receive this amount for each child, and it does not mean that the school will spend £6,000 on every child with SEN. Sometimes schools use these funds to help groups of children while some children will need a lower amount – and some children may need more.

You can ask your school how it uses its SEN budget to support your child.

The (LA) provides Element 1 and 2 funding for the schools it is responsible for. The local Schools Forum agrees the formula that determines how much money the school gets for each pupil. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) provides Element 1 and 2 funding for academies and free schools.

You can read more about this on The Local Offer Link [special-education-needs-funding-in-schools](#)

You can also review the amounts given to schools on this link via the Local Offer.

[notional-send-funding-2025-26](#)

Element 3 - Some children have such complex needs that the school may request some additional funding to 'top up' Elements 1 and 2. The LA 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 through their EHCP, if the school or academy can show there is an exceptional level of need.

Who manages the schools SEN resources?

The SEND Code of Practice (6.97) 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."

'**Pupil Premium**' is the funding that a school is given to help them to support those children who may face extra challenges in reaching their potential at school. For more detailed information see the government website. [pupil-premium/pupil-premium](https://www.gov.uk/pupil-premium/pupil-premium)

School governors are responsible for the school's policy on SEN and how the resources are used. The headteacher and the SENCo ensure that the policy is put into practice. The Senco co-ordinates the support for children in the school, but it is the teacher who 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.

Finding out what support/resources my child is receiving.

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, this should set out the support and resources that are to be provided.

Further Information.

If you would like to find out further information about SEN funding (including personal budgets), then look at our 'Funding for SEN webpage guide'. This goes into more detail, including what law and national guidance says on the subject. [funding-for-sen-in-educational-settings](#)



To find out more about 'SEN Support' and 'EHC Plans', please see the relevant [factsheets on the SENDIAS website](#).

Service Statement

The role of the SENDIAS service is to ensure all parents, children and young people have access to impartial information, advice and support so they can make informed decisions related to their situation. Any information that is shared with the service is in confidence unless permission has been obtained to share this with any individuals, services and agencies that may be able to help in the circumstances. For more detail, view our [policies and privacy notice](#) on our website.

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