



# Education Support, Resources and Funding for Children with Additional Needs

## A Guide for Parents & Carers

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## Education Support, Resources and Funding for Children with Additional Needs

This leaflet explains the funding and resources that may be available for your child or young person with special educational needs (SEN), at the different stages of their education.

### Local Offer

The Local Authority has published a **Local Offer** to give an overview of the education, health and care provision available (depending on need) to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. This tells you about the support and opportunities that are available in Devon and informs you how the funding in schools/colleges might be directed. It also gives information about Local Authority processes and how to make statutory assessment requests.

### Who decides what provision my child or young person needs?

The support, physical resources and strategies that will help your child or young person to meet their agreed outcomes in school or college, will be decided using the 'assess, plan, do, review' cycle. This is sometimes called the Graduated Response. The information could be recorded in the form of a school/college plan, an Early Help plan (DAF), a statutory Education Health and Care (EHC) plan or a Statement of Special Educational Need. Such plans should be monitored and reviewed, with your and the child/young person's input. The plans will take into account your views, as well as those of your child/young person, the school, the college and other professionals. If enough progress is not being made you can discuss ways in which the plan might need to be changed with the school/college. For an Education Health & Care plan, these discussions can take place at an annual review and the Local Authority would then decide which changes it would make to the plan. For more information about this please look at our **EHCP Annual Review fact sheet**

## **SEN Support in School (5 – 16yrs)**

If your child has special educational needs (SEN) the school should put effective provision in place to address any barriers to their learning. Our leaflet **Special Educational Needs Support in School** explains more about this.

The school has a SEN budget and will make decisions about how best to use this to support all the children with SEN across the school. Not every child will require the same level of funding as it will depend on their individual needs, as well as how these needs change. Schools are expected to use the Graduated Response approach to gain a growing understanding of your child's needs and what might help them to progress. The Local Authority has created a Graduated Response Toolkit (**Key Stage one** and **Key Stage two**) which gives guidance for schools in Devon, on what they might provide for a range of SEN. You can find information about it on the **SEND Local Offer**.

There are many ways in which children with special educational needs are supported in schools. Teaching Assistants (TAs), Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) or Meal Time Assistants (MTAs) might be the most visible forms of support to you. However, research shows that a range of support strategies is more effective than individual support alone in helping children to become more independent learners and progress eventually towards adulthood.

## **Support for your child could include:**

- working with other children while the teacher works with your child
- supporting your child to take part in class activities
- checking that your child has understood activities by encouraging them to ask questions and to try something they find difficult
- working with your child in a small group
- helping other children relate to your child, perhaps at break time
- preparing or adapting materials and equipment
- observing your child in class or at break and keeping records
- supporting your child with physical or personal care difficulties, such as eating, getting around school safely, toileting or dressing

Your child's school will have a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) who plays a key role in raising the achievement of pupils with additional needs by:

- coordinating provision across the school
- working closely with parents, carers, health and social care professionals
- making sure all teachers know about your child's additional needs
- providing professional guidance to class teachers
- ensuring specific training opportunities for staff, including TAs, LSAs and MTAs
- monitoring your child's progress
- managing a list of children to refer for educational psychology or advisory teacher input
- liaising with you and all relevant professionals to consider making a request for further assessment
- supporting reviews

## Resources & Strategies

Schools may request advice from outside professionals, such as an educational psychologist, to discuss the most suitable strategies and support for your child. Not all resources provided in a school are costly and not all of them have to be delivered for your child by professionals on an individual basis to be effective. Some might include:

- a different reading or maths scheme
- differentiating the curriculum
- specialist signing around the school
- transcribing information
- providing a dyslexia-friendly classroom
- offering a recommended computer programme
- access to a laptop – not necessarily one for each child
- special equipment, such as seating or a writing slope
- rearranging the classroom or nursery furniture
- a base for a child to rest or have some down time
- small group work and interventions

In a few cases, if a child has severe or complex needs, or has very specific needs, it may be necessary to provide individual support. This would be discussed between you, the SENCo and, in cases where your child has an Education Health and Care plan or a Statement of Special Educational Need, with the Local Authority.

## How can I check what support and resources my child is getting?

We suggest that you discuss your child's progress, support and resources with the school at parents' evenings, support plan meetings and at reviews. You can ask for any support plan for your child to be provided to you in writing. Devon Information Advice and Support (DIAS) can support you to prepare for these discussions and signpost you to useful documents such as:

- the school's Ofsted report
- the school's behaviour, attendance and other policies
- the school's SEN policy
- funding arrangements information
- our leaflet - [Assessments, Plan & Reviews](#)

# Funding

## Schools and Academies (5-16yrs)

All mainstream schools, including Local Authority maintained schools, academies and free schools (but excluding independent schools) have a budget to support their children who have special educational needs. They need to plan their provision from this funding to make sure that there are enough resources and support for their pupils to make adequate progress and that reasonable adjustments are made to further this. The funding arrangements are made up of three main elements.

**Element 1:** This is money which is allocated per pupil in the school. It is known as the **Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)**. This money funds the teaching and resourcing needs of all pupils in the school within the normal differentiated curriculum and includes a small amount for general SEN provision.

**Element 2:** If a child has special educational needs, they will require support in school that is *additional to and different from* that of their mainstream peer group. These needs are usually met from element 2 funding which is an identified amount, based on a set formula, which each school receives annually to provide additional support. The maximum funding that a child can receive from Element 2 is £6000 per year – but not every pupil with SEN will need this full amount and the school is not allocated enough for every pupil with SEN to have the maximum. The Local Authority has published a Local Offer to help to identify which type of resources this money might be spent on and to give more details about the **Graduated Response**. You can also ask your school how it is using the budget to support your child.

**Element 3:** If your child requires additional support in school, that costs more than £6,000, the Local Authority can provide top-up funding for this from its **high needs block**. This funding would be used to make specific provision for the individual child. The school can make a request for this funding and it is the school's responsibility to set out its case by showing how it has implemented the Graduated Response. It would be for the Local Authority to agree any additional funding. You can contact us for more detail about all areas of SEN funding.

**Pupil Premium/Pupil Premium Plus:** The Pupil Premium is additional funding given to schools so that they can support disadvantaged children and young people, and close the attainment gap between them and their peers. It is paid based on the number of pupils at a school who are registered as eligible for free school meals in reception to Year 11. Pupil Premium Plus is for looked after children and includes adopted children. Schools have to evidence how they use this funding to support eligible pupils.

**Special Schools:** The funding for children with the most complex needs, who are in special schools, is arranged differently. A set amount is paid to the school per planned pupil place and an agreed additional amount for each pupil is allocated depending on their level of need. This will enable schools to provide high level interventions and to meet the needs of individuals who require periods of significant support.

**Alternative Provision/Pupil Referral Units (PRUs):** These are settings that provide short-term education for children and young people who cannot manage mainstream education or have been excluded from school. A PRU will receive a set amount per planned pupil place which will cover SEN. Not all children attending a PRU will have high special educational needs but, if they do, funding is already with the provider to meet of his/her individual needs.

## **Early Years Settings – Pre-Schools, Day Nurseries, Nursery Schools and Childminders**

The Government provides funding for all 3 and 4 year olds to attend an Ofsted registered early years or childcare setting for up to thirty hours per week. This funding starts from the term after the child's third birthday until they start school.

Early years funding is also extended to some 2 year olds, including those from families on low incomes, children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, children looked after by a local authority and those with an EHC plan. Parents can check their eligibility for this funding by calling 0345 155 1013 or completing information online at <http://devon.cc/admissionsonline>

Each early years setting should consider how much of its core funding it needs to set aside to support the inclusion of children with additional needs. If a setting has a child with significant needs, it might request additional funding to help towards the cost of increasing staffing ratios, training or resources. Settings might also have access to additional Early Years Pupil Premium funding if it has eligible children.

More information about early years funding can be found in the Early Years and Childcare section of the Local Offer <http://devon.cc/eyef>



## Post-16

As with pre-16 education, schools and colleges offering post-16 study will be expected to follow the assess, plan, do, review cycle, to better understand a young person's needs and what support they might require. More details about this can be found by contacting the school or college directly.

Funding for post-16 learning in mainstream schools and further education (FE) colleges, is delegated by the Education Funding Agency (EFA), rather than the Local Authority, and this is based on a national formula. Each provider has an allocation of SEN Element 2 funding which allows for up to £6000 being available for students who may require support. Students who require support above this £6000 are considered to be high needs students. The LA will decide who is funded as a high needs student and how much additional Element 3 funding they may require.

The national funding formula is not used when calculating allocations for post-16 special schools, special academies and special colleges. These are funded through the EFA and the Local Authority decides how their places are allocated, based on a consultation process.

## 19-25 Year Olds

There is no automatic entitlement to education post-19, but for some students who have not yet achieved all their outcomes and would like to continue learning, the LA will determine whether they need to remain in education on a year by year basis. This is dependent on progress and the students will have an Education Health & Care plan. These places are usually funded by the EFA with top-up funding as agreed by the Local Authority.

### Education Funding Agency – further funding roles

The EFA also funds

- 14 to 16 year olds who are directly enrolled into eligible further education institutions
- home educated students of compulsory school age who are also enrolled at a further education college

More information about further education opportunities in Devon can be found on the Local Offer <http://devon.cc/furthereducation>

## Personal Budgets and Direct Payments

If your child or young person has an Education Health & Care plan, you can ask the Local Authority to prepare a Personal Budget. This will identify the amount that is needed to deliver the provision that is specified in the plan and also shows where the parent or young person can be involved in securing that provision. If you receive some of this money directly, in order to manage part of the Personal Budget yourself, this is called a Direct Payment or the Devon Card.

For more details see our leaflet [Personal Budgets for Special Educational Needs](#)

## What if I am not happy with my child's provision?

If you have a concern about the support or resources the school provides for your child, you should at first discuss this with the relevant staff and/or SENCo. If you do not feel your concerns have been fully addressed you can take the issues up more formally - see our fact sheet - **What if we can't agree?**. At 16, your young person can be supported to raise their own concerns and take these up through formal channels. At DIAS, we can support you and/or your young person with regard to the next steps.

## What if I am home educating my child?

When parents choose to electively home educate their child they assume financial responsibility for their child's education. However, the Local Authority can take a flexible approach to supporting parents who are home educating where appropriate. If your child has a Statement of Special Educational Need or an Education Health & Care plan, then the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that the special educational provision is arranged and that the education provided at home is suitable for the child's needs. Some home-educated children may be enrolled at a further education college for part-time study and these programmes may be funded by the Education Funding Agency.

## Transport

Devon County Council (DCC) has a transport policy which dictates how decisions are made for school transport. Transport arrangements are made from a different funding route and do not come out of the school's or college's SEN budget. There is no automatic right to funding for post-16 school/college transport. For more information go to the SEND Local Offer page <http://devon.cc/schooltransport>

## How can Devon Information Advice & Support help?

**DIAS** can support you by:

- explaining the various funding routes
- talking about ways in which you can liaise with others about your child's support
- describing how the Local Authority and its statutory services may be able to support you
- explaining what direct payments, personal budgets, school/college-based plans, Early Help plans (DAF) and EHC plans are - and what they might mean for you and your child



Contact Devon Information Advice & Support  
on **01392 383080** or email **devonias@devon.gov.uk**

This leaflet was created in partnership with the 0-25 SEND Team and we value any feedback in order that we can continue to develop our information. Please email us or use our online feedback questionnaire.

We have further leaflets and information online at:

**[www.devonias.org.uk](http://www.devonias.org.uk)**



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