



What Does SEND Mean?

AN INFORMATION SHEET BY THE TRAVELLER MOVEMENT

Special educational needs, often referred to as 'SEN' or 'SEND' (special educational needs and disabilities), is a term used to describe learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for a child to learn compared to their peers of the same age.

All children may experience challenges with learning at some point, and most difficulties can be overcome with support from teachers and family. However, children with SEND are likely to require extra or different assistance to facilitate their learning.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some children may have SEND due to a medical condition or disability, while others may have SEND without a formal diagnosis.

EXAMPLES OF SEN INCLUDE

- Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD)
- Autism, including Asperger Syndrome
- Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder (ADHD/ADD)
- Specific learning disorders, such as Dyslexia/Dyspraxia
- Communication difficulties
- Medical needs such as Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS & SPECIAL PROVISION

It's not always possible for children to keep up with the demands of mainstream school, so occasionally it may be necessary for your child to spend some time at a school that can better meet their needs and abilities. For more information, please visit [Learn More: Exclusions](#), or [Learn More: Special Education](#).

When your child is aged between 5 and 16 years, they must still be in education, which includes alternative schools.

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If your child has SEND, they may require additional support in various areas, such as:

- Reading, writing, numeracy, or understanding information
- Making friends or relating to adults
- Behaving appropriately in school
- Sensory or physical needs that may affect their experience in school
- Organising themselves

SUPPORT AVAILABLE

A wide range of actions and provisions can be implemented for pupils with SEND, tailored to their specific needs and what works best for each individual child.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE

- Additional help from a teacher or learning support assistant
- Opportunities to work in smaller groups
- Classroom or break-time observation
- Help with physical or personal care needs (for example, eating, navigating the school safely, or using the toilet)

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS & SPECIAL PROVISION

Each school will have its own approach to supporting children with SEND. This may include access to on-site support services, such as Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) and other counselling services. Schools will also facilitate access to CAMHS or other external providers by offering guidance and safe spaces for engagement with these services.