

The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice

What are Special Educational Needs (SEN)?



Some children and young people need more help to learn new things when they are at school or college.



This could be help with their reading or writing, help with talking and listening, or help to understand things better.



If someone needs help with these things, they are said to have Special Educational Needs, or **SEN** for short.



The way that children and young people with SEN get this support is changing.

What is new?



There is an important group of people who run the country they are called the Government



The government wants children, young people and parents to have more chance to say what they think about their help.



This means that children, young people and their parents should be asked about what help they need and to say what they want to happen.



If you are a young person and over the age of 16 then you will be asked if you want to make a decision before your parents are asked.



This could be a decision about what school or college they want to go to, for example.

What is the SEN Code of Practice?



The SEN code of practice is a guide about changes to the SEN system. It says what will happen when the changes to SEN system take place.



It sets out what is expected of people who work with children and young people.

Why is the SEN Code of Practice important?



The SEN code of practice shows you the help you can expect to get if you have SEN.



The SEN code of practice shows who is in charge of helping you.



The code of practice helps people to know what their rights are.



This is important for young people who are over the age of 16 because they will be asked if they want to make a decision before their parents are asked.



This means they need to know what decisions they can make.

What does the Code of Practice say young people's rights are?

Young people have a right to request an assessment for an Education Health and Care.



An Education, Health and Care Plan, or EHC Plan for short, is given to children and young people who need more help in school or college.



In order to get an EHC Plan, you need to have an assessment to see what kind of support you need and whether you need an EHC Plan.



Young people over the age of 16 can ask for this assessment to take place.

Young people have a right to say what kind of support they need.



The EHC Plan will help children and young people to get support across all parts of their life, including with their health needs.



Health needs could be things like if someone needs help with their breathing or to move around.



Young people over the age of 16 can say if they want a particular kind of support to help them to do something.

Young people have a right to say what school or college they want to go to.



The EHC Plan also says where a child or young person should go to school or college.



Young people can either go to a mainstream school or college, or a special school or college.



Young people over the age of 16 can say if they would prefer to go to a particular school or college.

Young people have a right to ask for a personal budget.



If someone wants to be in charge of the support they get, they can be in charge of buying their support themselves. This is called a personal budget.



Young people over the age of 16 can ask the council to give them a personal budget to pay for their own support.

Young people also have the right to appeal if they do not agree with some of the things in their EHC Plan.



When a young person does not agree with a decision about things like the support they are given or what school or college they should go to, they can appeal against a decision.



If it is not the right decision, sometimes the decision can be changed.



Court

A young person over the age of 16 can ask someone else to look at whether the decision is the right one. This could be done by a Judge in a Court, for example.