SEND Glossary

Term	Definition
Types of SEND	
SEN	Special educational needs. A pupil has SEN if they need special educational provision due to a learning difficulty or disability
SEND	Special educational needs and disability. Both terms are used, often interchangeably
Areas of need	4 broad categories are used to describe a pupil's SEN. They are: • Communication and interaction • Cognition and learning • Social, emotional and mental health difficulties • Sensory and/or physical needs
ASD	Autistic spectrum disorder
GLD	Global learning difficulties
HI	Hearing impairment
MLD	Moderate learning difficulties
PMLD	Profound and multiple learning difficulties
SEMH	Social, emotional and mental health
SLCN	Speech, language and communication needs
SLD	Severe learning difficulties. Can also refer to speech and language difficulties
SpLD	Specific learning difficulties, e.g. dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia
VI	Visual impairment
Assessments, plans and provision	
Accessibility plan	A document that sets out how a school plans to improve accessibility for its pupils with disabilities
Annual review	A review of a pupil's education, health and care (EHC) plan carried out by the LA at least every 12 months
Assessment (or EHC needs assessment)	An initial assessment, carried out by the LA, which decides whether a child or young person needs an EHC plan. Can be requested by parents/carers, young people or schools
EHC plan	Education, health and care plan. A statutory document drawn up by the LA, setting out the education, health and social care support to be provided to a child or young person with

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	SEN or a disability
Graduated approach	A 4-part cycle for assessing, planning, delivering and reviewing provision for pupils with SEN
IEP	Individual education plan. See 'school-based plan'
One-page profile	See 'school-based plan'
Pupil passport	See 'school-based plan'
Pupil profile	See 'school-based plan'
SALT	Speech and language therapy, sometimes speech and language therapist
School-based plan	Non-statutory document that sets out school-based support and interventions for a pupil with SEN. It can be called a variety of names: • Individual education plans (IEP) • SEN support plan • Pupil passports/profile • One-page profile
SEN support	An overall term that refers to the support given to pupils who need special educational provision but don't have EHC plans. A pupil will be recorded on the census as having a 'K' status. Replaced the previous categories of support which were School Action (SA) and School Action Plus (SA+)
SEN support plan	See 'school-based plan'
SEND register	A record that lists pupils with SEND who require additional or different provision to that offered to all pupils. Not a requirement, but can be a useful tool for managing SEND provision
SEND resource base	Specialist provision within a mainstream school, also known as an SEN unit or specialist resource base
Sensory room	A space that uses special lighting, music, and objects to creating a calm environment or develop certain senses. Often used as a therapy for pupils with limited communication
Special educational provision	Provision to help pupils with SEN or disabilities access the curriculum that's different from or additional to the provision normally available to pupils of the same age
Special school	A school that is specifically organised to make special educational provision for pupils with SEN
Statement	The predecessor to EHC plans. A statutory document drawn up by the LA describing the provision for a child or young person with SEN who is still at school. They were phased out by 2018, replaced by EHC plans
Transition planning	Preparation for moves between phases of education or for adult life
Other key terms	
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
Disagreement resolution	A service for resolving disagreements about provision between parents/carers or young people and other bodies, commissioned by the LA. Available to all children and young people with SEN, not just those with EHC plans
ICB	Integrated care board. A group of NHS professionals which is responsible for planning and arranging the delivery of the healthcare provision for people in its area. ICBs replaced clinical commissioning groups (CCG) in 2022
LA	Local authority
Local offer	Sets out information about provision that the LA expects to be available in its area for

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	children and young people with SEND. Published by the LA
Mediation	A form of disagreement resolution for parents/carers and young people considering appealing decisions about EHC needs assessments and plans at the tribunal
Outcome	Describes the difference that will be made to an individual as a result of special educational and other provision. Should specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound (SMART)
Personal budget	An amount of money requested by parents/carers or young people for securing provision set out in the EHC plan. The budget, prepared by the LA, can be held directly by the parent/carer or young person, or managed on their behalf by the LA, school or other organisation
SEN information report	This must be published on the school website and updated annually, setting out the school's provision for pupils with SEN. It should be easily accessible by young people and parents/carers, and set out in clear, straightforward language
SEN policy	Sets out the vision, values and aims of the school's SEND arrangements. Does not have to be a standalone document, and is often included alongside the information report
SENCO	Special educational needs co-ordinator – the person in a school responsible for co-ordinating provision for pupils with SEN
SEND code of practice	Statutory guidance setting out the duties and responsibilities of organisations, including schools, in relation to children and young people with SEND
Top-up funding	Additional funding available from the LA for pupils with high needs
Tribunal	The First-tier Tribunal (SEN and disability). An independent body that determines appeals by parents or young people against LA decisions on EHC needs assessments and EHC plans, as well as claims of disability discrimination