



A Guide to Special Educational Needs and Disability Support in Independent Schools

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Important Words



The **Government** helps to run the country.



SEN stands for **special educational needs**. A child or young person has special educational needs if they need extra support to learn things.



Special Educational Needs Support (SEN support) is the support that a child or young person can get in a school or college.

Support might be a person to speak to about your learning, or extra lessons.



A **local council** is the group of people who look after things in a local area like services to support children and young people who might have special educational needs and disabilities.

Bexley Council is the local council.



The government made some changes to how some children and young people and their families are supported. These changes are in the **Children and Families Act 2014**.

The Children and Families Act 2014 is the **law**. **Laws** are **rules** which people need to follow.

How can schools and colleges support children and young people?



The **Children and Families Act 2014** tells schools how to **support** children and young people



Most **Schools** and **colleges** must do their best to find out if a child has **special educational needs** and give them the support they need to help them learn.



If the child or young person has **special educational needs**, most **schools** or **colleges** will look at how they can support them.

They will look at:

- what support the child or young person needs
- what they can do to give the child the support they need.



A **special educational needs coordinator (SENCO)** is a teacher at a school who is in charge of making sure students who have special educational needs and disabilities get the support they need.



Most **schools** or **colleges** will keep looking at the support they give the child or young person and if it is enough to help them to learn. The child or young person **might need different sorts of support at different times.**



The school or college might ask a **specialist** for help. A **specialist** looks at how a child or young person can be better supported to learn. This includes children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.



The school might ask for an **education health and care needs assessment (EHCNA).**



An **assessment** is a way of working out what kind of support someone needs.



An **education health and care needs assessment** will look at what extra support children and young people with special educational needs might need in their life.



This kind of support is called **special educational needs support (SEN support)**.

doctor



A child or young person does **not** need a diagnosis to get special educational needs support.

A **diagnosis** is when a **doctor** has told you if you have special educational needs.



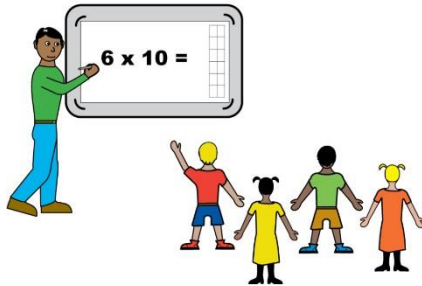
After an **education health and care needs assessment** a child or young person might get an **education, health and care plan**.

An **education, health and care plan (EHC plan)** says what support a child or young person who has special educational needs **must** get.



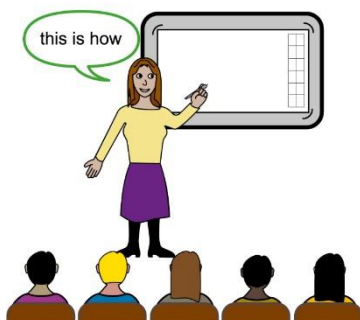
Not all children or young people will need an **education, health and care plan**. Education, health and care plans are only for children and young people who need a lot **more support** than their school or college can usually give them.

school



For a child or young person with an **education health and care plan**, your **local council** might be able to help you find the right school.

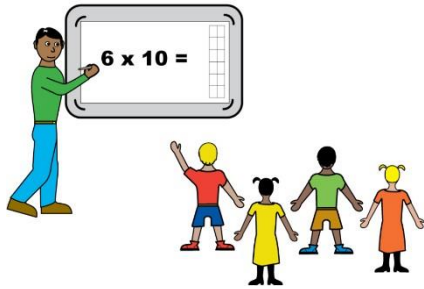
school



For a child or young person with an education health and care plan, a local council might be able to **tell** a school that you **must** go to that school.

How is special educational needs support different in Independent schools?

school



Most schools follow the government's **rules** which are written in the **Children and Families Act 2014**.

Some **independent** schools **do not need to follow** the government's **rules** written in the **Children and Families Act 2014**.



Some **independent** schools might have a special educational needs **policy**. A **policy** are rules that the schools should follow. A special educational needs **policy** tells you about support at the school or college.



Some **independent** schools **do not need** to find out if a child has **special educational needs**.

doctor



A child or young person might **need** a **diagnosis** to get support for the special educational needs.

A **diagnosis** is when a **doctor** has told you if you have special educational needs.



A **special educational needs coordinator (SENCO)** is a teacher at a school who is in charge of making sure students who have special educational needs and disabilities get the support they need.

Some **independent** schools might not have a **special educational needs coordinator**.

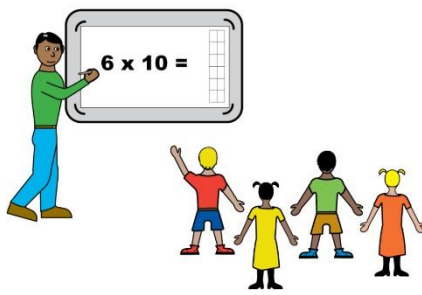


Some **independent** schools do not need to ask a **specialist** for help. A **specialist** looks at how a child or young person can be better supported to learn. This includes children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.



Some independent schools do not need to ask for an **education health and care needs assessment**.

school



For a child or young person with an **education health and care plan**, your **local council** might be able to help you find the right school. **Bexley Council** is the local council.

A local council **cannot tell** an **independent** school that you **must** go to the school.



To find out more about local schools and colleges, visit the **Bexley Local Offer**

Telephone number: 0203 045 5677

Email: localoffer@bexley.gov.uk

Website: www.bexleylocaloffer.uk



If you need **help**, you can contact Bexley IASS.

Telephone number: 020 3045 5976

Email: bexleyiass@bexley.gov.uk

Website: www.bexleyiass.co.uk

Address: SEND Information, Advice and Support Service, London Borough of Bexley, Civic Offices, 2 Watling Street, Bexleyheath, DA6 7AT