

Funding for children with special educational needs & disabilities in a mainstream school



This booklet explains how the Local Authority responds to the varying levels of need in Norfolk



Who is responsible for ensuring that children's special educational needs (SEND) are met?

- ◆ The school's Governing Body or Academy Trust has a legal duty to do everything they can to see that the needs of pupils with SEN are met (Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 6.2) and also to make 'reasonable adjustments' so that disabled children are not disadvantaged
- ◆ The head teacher is responsible for the day to day management of all areas of the school's work. This includes support for children with SEND. The head teacher will keep the Governing Body/Academy Trust fully informed
- ◆ The Local Authority shares out money to schools individually and through their cluster group so that they can support children with SEN. The Local Authority also helps schools through the support services (specialists from education and health) and has responsibility for children with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) or who still have a Statement of special educational needs



How are schools funded?

The Government have set a framework for Local Authorities to help them decide how much money each school will have in its budget. Schools receive this money in April each year. The Governors and Head Teacher are then responsible for deciding how it is spent.

There are 3 parts to SEN funding:

- 1) **The basic per pupil entitlement**, which every mainstream school gets for each pupil, is not the same in every school. The amount varies depending on such things as local social need. The way this is decided is by a group called the Schools Forum who with the Local Authority organise the entitlement and give it out to the schools
- 2) **The SEN budget**, which again is not the same for every school, will be based on a set of rules agreed by the government and locally. These will include the kind of area the school is in and how well the children are doing when they start at the school. This will be used to support **all** children's special educational needs, whether or not they have an EHCP or have a Statement
- 3) **The Top Up Funding** is to support children with high level needs. In Norfolk for mainstream and academies this money is held by the schools local cluster (see page 3)

Special Schools have Part 1 and 2 for each child and then extra **Top Up Funding** depending on the level of need in the school. This funding comes directly from the LA.

Sen Funding Levels at Schools

	Mainstream School			Special Schools
3 Top up				
2 SEN				
1 Basic Per pupil Entitle- ment				
	Pupil may have SEN	Pupil with SEN	Pupil with SEN	Pupil with SEN

A **School Cluster** is a group of about 10 schools, which includes at least one high school and those schools that feed into it. The School Cluster will decide how to share the money out to the schools within its cluster.

Find out what money your child's school receives for SEN funding:

- ◆ www.efs.norfolk.gov.uk
- ◆ Go to A-Z and click on 'Budget Share'
- ◆ Put in school name and click on the four number code in the blue box
- ◆ Click on 'SEN Memorandum'

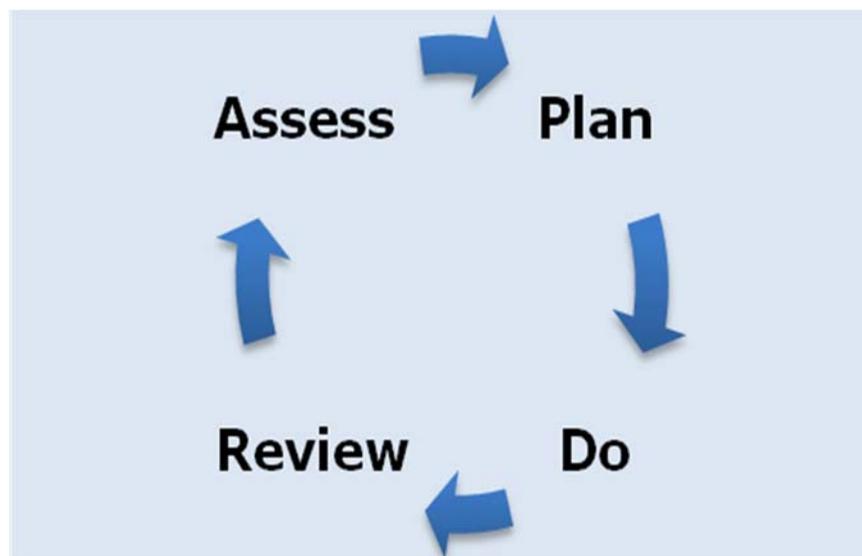
Children at mainstream nursery

A Local Authority Panel will look at what extra help or support a child needs. They will then find out if the nursery can give support or needs extra funding. The nurseries will still work with the Local Authority Clusters but not for funding.



How do I know if my child is getting the right level of support?.

- ◆ If your child has SEN, the school should have contacted you, discussed these needs and agreed some targets with you. This is part of the 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' cycle, called SEN support
- ◆ This support should be reviewed with you regularly to see if progress has been made, before provision is changed
- ◆ If your child has an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) or still has a Statement of SEN this will say what support he or she must have
- ◆ If you need more information please see our booklet **"Helping Children in School"**



What happens if my child's needs change?

- ◆ Some children's needs may lessen while others may increase
- ◆ It is expected that the school will be able to respond to these changing needs with the help and advice of professionals, using their cluster budget allocation
- ◆ Where there is a very significant increase in need, the school or parent can ask the Local Authority to assess the needs of a child who may need an EHCP, or re-assess the needs of a child who already has a Plan. (or still has a Statement)

If you have any concerns about your child's education, contact your school.





We also:

- ◆ Produce a newsletter each term
- ◆ Have information leaflets available on our website
- ◆ Ensure the views of children, young people and parent/carers are represented when influencing SEND policy and practice

Contact us:

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Disclaimer: This is a guide and should not be treated as legal advice. Although SEND Partnership makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information contained in this booklet is accurate and up to date at the time of publication we cannot accept responsibility suffered as a consequence of any reliance placed upon it.

If you need this leaflet in another format or language please contact us and we will do our best to help.

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