



Additional Support in School for Children with Special Educational Needs

Many children require extra support at one time or another during their school career. This support is usually provided by teachers and support staff. In some cases, schools will ask for specialist advice from other agencies.

School Action

School Action is the name given to describe the additional support that is provided for children with special educational needs by their teachers in school.

- This support is usually given in the classroom and is managed by the class or subject teacher. This support may be for one subject or cover a number of subjects.
- Every school has a special needs co-ordinator (SENCo) who, with the support of the head teacher and governing body, takes responsibility for co-ordinating the day to day provision the school makes for pupils with special educational needs. They also provide professional guidance and support other staff in understanding the learning needs of pupils with SEN and the importance of raising their achievement,
- Most schools employ learning support assistants (LSA), teaching assistants (TA) or learning mentors to help teachers implement individual or group education plans.

School Action Plus

This is the name given to describe the support that is provided by your child's teacher in consultation with other professionals.

This additional advice may come from:

- Additional needs teachers
- Health specialists such as doctors, school nurses and speech therapists
- Voluntary organisations.

You should always be consulted if your child's school asks another professional to meet your child.

(For a description of these and other organisations please ask for the leaflet – Professional Support for Special Educational Needs)

Individual Education Plan (IEP)

IEPs are not meant to duplicate any other planning such as individual target setting or curriculum planning that is recorded for a pupil elsewhere. Where schools have arrangements to plan individually for all pupils and plan their progress, an IEP may not be necessary. However, some pupils may still need to have an IEP which sets out the arrangements that are being made to meet a pupil's identified needs.

An IEP should record :

- the targets your child is working towards
- the additional help your child will receive
- how often your child receives help
- who provides the help
- how and when your child's progress will be checked.

The IEP should only record the support that your child receives that is additional to or different from the differentiated curriculum plan that is in place as part of the provision for all pupils.

Reviewing the IEP

It is important that your child's IEP is reviewed at least twice a year to make sure that they are making progress in response to the arrangements that are set out.

The review will usually include the following questions:

- What progress has your child made?
- How has this progress been shown?
- Is there any new information that needs to be taken into consideration?
- What needs to happen next?

You and your child should be involved in the IEP review process.

Parental Supporters

You may wish to have some support when attending meetings or reading documents concerning your child.

You can ask a member of your family, a friend or a member of a voluntary group or you can contact Special Needs- Informed Parents (SN-IP)

Special Needs –Informed Parents

(SN-IP) is a parent partnership service which provides support and impartial advice to parents whose children have special educational needs. They help parents to make informed decisions about their child's education but they do not take sides.

If you would like help, please contact:

 **SN-IP** www.snipnorthants.org

Special Needs - Informed Parents

Springfield, Cliftonville,
Northampton, NN1 5BE
Tel: 01604 636111

or Fairlawn Centre, Spring Gardens
Wellingborough, NN8 2AA
Tel: 01933 271673

Fax: 01604 630283

e-mail: contact@snipnorthants.org

Further reading

'Professional Support in School for Children with Special Educational Needs.'
explains the help that schools can call upon from Northamptonshire County Council's Children and Young People's Service as well as other professionals

Department for Education and Skills

'Special Educational Needs (SEN) A guide for parents and carers.'

This information can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.