

SEND Glossary of Terms

A

Academy

An academy is a school which receives funding directly from the Government and is not controlled by the local authority. The majority of academies are secondary schools, but some primary schools also have academy status.

Activities of daily living (ADL)

Basic self-care tasks that must be accomplished every day, such as eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring and continence.

Additional needs

Additional needs describes a group of children or young people who require additional support to help them make improved progress or catch up, which may be a short-term intervention or a longer-term strategy.

Advocate

An advocate is someone who can help children, young people and parents say what they want if they find it difficult to do so.

Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)

The AWPU is the amount of money that every maintained school receives for each pupil that is on the school roll, whether or not they have SEN. The value of the AWPU varies from one local authority to another and according to the age of the pupils.

Alternative provision

Education in a setting that is not a mainstream or special school. The education should be based on the needs of the child and can be provided through a variety of routes, including pupil referral units (PRUs).

Annual review

The annual review is a process which includes a meeting where a local council, a school or a college, and some other people look at the support a child or young person gets and if it is right for them. The annual review must happen every twelve months.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are paid for by the government and the employer. Learning at work through an apprenticeship scheme means getting a wage at the same time.

Asperger Syndrome

Asperger Syndrome is a form of autism. People with the condition usually have difficulties with social communication, social interaction and social imagination.

Assessment

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

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

A medical diagnosis related to the child's behaviour and attention span, which can affect their ability to concentrate and learn.

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)

Different methods that can be used to help people with disabilities communicate with others, for example using signing, speech synthesisers, symbols, objects of reference or a combination of these.

Autism

Autism is a lifelong developmental disorder. Autistic people think differently to other people. It affects how a person communicates with and relates to the people around them.

C

Carer

A family member or paid helper who regularly looks after a child or a sick, elderly or disabled person.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Services that are provided by the NHS for children and young people up to the age of 18 who need support with their emotions, their behaviour or their mental health

Children & Families Act 2014

The Children and Families Act 2014 became law on the 13 March 2014. The Act aims to improve how different agencies and services work together and create a more joined-up approach to the statutory assessment process for children and young people with the most complex needs. The Act aims to give children and young people with complex needs and their families more choice and control about which services they can access and how they are paid for. The Act will also improve information about services for children and young people with SEN and their families.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

CCGs are groups of professionals who work together to commission health services, ensuring there is sufficient capacity contracted to deliver the necessary services to people.

Code of Practice

The revised Special Educational Needs Code of Practice was published by the Department for Education and Skills in January 2015. The code provides guidance on policies and procedures intended to enable pupils with SEN to reach their full potential, to be included in school communities and to make the transition to adult life successfully.

Cognition and Learning

The mental process of knowing, including aspects such as awareness, perception, reasoning, and judgement.

Cognitive Ability

Thinking and reasoning abilities. A term often used by psychologists instead of intelligence.

Commissioning

The process that ensures the right people and services are in the right place at the right time for all children, young people and families. It is the process by which services are planned, investment decisions are made, delivery is ensured and effectiveness is reviewed.

Comprehension

Understanding of spoken or written material or practical situations.

D

Decision Support Tool

The form that is used by the nurse or other health worker who does the assessment to see if a person is eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare.

Developmental delay

A slower rate of development where a child learns more slowly than most children of the same age.

Differentiated curriculum

Children make progress at different rates and have different ways in which they learn best. Teachers take account of this when planning their lessons, organising the classroom and choosing books and materials. They are then able to choose from the range of available approaches and resources to make a selection which best fits the learning styles of a particular child or group of children. This is what is meant by a differentiated curriculum.

Direct Payments

A payment made directly to a parent or young person to purchase specific services. Under the Children and Families Act 2014 a Direct Payment may be made as part of a Personal Budget so that the parent or young person can buy certain services that are specified in their EHC plan. Direct payments can only be used for provision provided on the school or college premises if the school or college agree.

Disabled

A person is disabled if he or she has a physical or mental impairment, which has substantial and long-term effect on his/her ability to carry out day-to-day activities. The definition also covers pupils with sensory or intellectual impairments, those with a learning disability, severe disfigurements or progressive conditions.

Disagreement Resolution

Local authorities must provide independent disagreement resolution to help parents and young people resolve disputes with local authorities, schools and other settings about SEND duties and provision.

Dyscalculia

A condition associated with specific learning difficulties in Maths. In its simplest terms this means that sufferers have problems with even simple arithmetic.

Dyslexia

A learning difficulty that primarily affects the skills involved in accurate and fluent word reading and spelling. Characteristic features of dyslexia are difficulties in phonological awareness, verbal memory and verbal processing speed.

Dyspraxia

A common developmental disorder affecting fine and/or gross motor coordination in children and adults. It may also affect speech.

E

Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

An EHC plan describes the special educational needs that a child or young person has and the help that they will be given to meet them. It also includes the health and care provision that is needed. It is a legal document written by the local authority and is used for children and young people who have complex support needs.

Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)

The ESFA is the government agency that funds education for learners between the ages of 3 and 19, and those with learning difficulties and disabilities between the ages of 3 and 25. The ESFA allocates funds to local authorities, which then provide the funding for maintained schools. The ESFA directly funds academies and free schools.

Educational psychologist (EP)

An educational psychologist 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.

Epilepsy

A health condition that affects the brain and causes seizures.

Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in school, the workplace and in wider society. It replaced previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act, making the law easier to understand and strengthening protection in some situations. It sets out the different ways in which it's unlawful to treat someone.

F

First Tier Tribunal (SEN and disability)

The First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) is a legal body. The Tribunal hears appeals from parents of children with SEN, and young people with SEN, about EHC needs assessments and EHC plans.

Foetal alcohol syndrome disorder (FASD)

A condition caused by the mother consuming alcohol, resulting in abnormal brain development before birth.

Fragile X Syndrome

The most common cause of inherited learning difficulties after Down's Syndrome.

H

Hearing Impairment (HI)

Pupils with a hearing impairment range from those with a mild hearing loss to those who are profoundly deaf.

Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA)

An experienced teaching assistant who plans and delivers learning activities under the direction of a teacher, and assesses, records and reports on pupils' progress.

J

Job Coach

A job coach finds out what the work involves and then plans ways to help the young person fulfil their tasks. Support is on-going until the employee has learned the job.

L

Lacking capacity

Lacking capacity is when a person is not able to make a decision for themselves. Just because someone finds it hard to make one decision, it does not mean they are not able to make other decisions.

Learning difficulties/disabilities

A learning disability affects how someone understands and remembers information. It is different from person to person. Some people may need more time to understand information.

Learning mentors

School staff who work with school and college students to help them engage more effectively in learning and improve achievement.

Local Authority (LA)

The local government body of a county or city that provides services, including education, for local people.

Local Offer

A local offer is published by every local authority and provides information about the support and services that children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities and their families can get. It includes information about education, health and care provision. It also gives information about training, employment and independent living for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Looked After Child (LAC)

Any child who is in care of the local authority, or who is provided with accommodation by the local authority social services department for more than 24 hours.

M

Mainstream school

This is a school that provides education for all children, whether or not they have special educational needs or disabilities.

Mental capacity assessment (MCA)

A mental capacity assessment is carried out to see if someone is able to make decisions. If someone can not make a decision by themselves, they should still be supported to have their say.

Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)

Describes a general level of academic attainment that is significantly below that of other children of the same age. There may be difficulty acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills, speech and language difficulties and poorly developed personal and social skills. Pupils should only be recorded as having a MLD if additional educational provision is being made to help them access the curriculum.

Modification

Amendment or alteration of a programme of study, attainment target, assessment or any other component of the curriculum so that a child can access that area of the teaching and learning.

Multi-agency working

Practitioners from different sectors and professions working together to provide joined-up support for children, young people and families.

Multi-sensory impairment (MSI)

Pupils with multi-sensory impairment have a combination of visual and hearing difficulties. They are sometimes referred to as deafblind but may have some residual sight and/or hearing.

N

NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC)

NHS Continuing Healthcare is the name given to a package of care that is arranged and funded solely by the NHS for individuals aged 18 and over who are not in hospital but have complex ongoing healthcare needs.

P

Parent carer forum

A Parent Carer Forum is a representative local group of parents and carers of disabled children who work with local authorities, education, health and other providers to make sure the services they plan and deliver meet the needs of disabled children and families.

Peer support

Peer support is when other pupils provide emotional, social or practical help to each other. Pupils are usually trained to provide this support.

Personal assistant

Personal assistants are approved support staff who offer a range of individual support and care to disabled children and young people.

Personal budget

A personal budget is money set aside for a young person or a parent by their local council. It can be used to buy some of the support a child or young person gets in their education, health and care plan. Sometimes a local council will keep this money and use it to buy some support that a young person or their family might need. Parents of children with an EHC plan and young people with an EHC plan can choose whether or not they wish to have a Personal Budget.

Personal Education Plan (PEP)

An element of a care plan maintained by a local authority in respect of a looked after child, which sets out the education needs of the child.

Personal Health Budget

A personal health budget is a set amount of money to spend on the support and services that will meet your health and wellbeing needs, as agreed between you (or your representative) and your local NHS team.

Person Centred Reviews

A Person Centred Review uses person centred thinking approaches to explore what is happening from the person and other people's perspectives. The review looks at what's working and not working, what's important to the person now and in the future, and agrees outcomes for change.

Physical disability (PD)

Disabilities that limit mobility. Among the causes are congenital conditions, accidents or injury.

Preparing for Adulthood

The transition of a young person leaving childhood and preparing to become an adult.

Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)

Someone with more than one disability, with the most significant being a learning disability. Many children diagnosed with PMLD will also have a sensory or physical disability, complex health needs or mental health difficulties. Pupils with PMLD need a high level of adult support both for their learning needs and for their personal care.

Provision map

A provision map is a way of documenting the range of support available to pupils with SEN within a school.

Pupil Premium

Additional funding for schools to spend in order to raise the achievement of disadvantaged pupils. The Pupil Premium for each school is calculated according to the number of pupils eligible for free school meals.

Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

This is a school established and maintained by a local authority that is specially organised to provide education for children who are excluded, sick or otherwise unable to attend mainstream school.

R

Reasonable adjustments

Reasonable adjustments are changes schools and other settings are required to make which could include: changes to physical features – for example, creating a ramp so that students can enter a classroom or providing extra support and aids (such as specialist teachers or equipment).

Respite Care

Respite care involves short term or temporary care of the sick or disabled for a few hours or weeks, designed to provide relief to the regular caregiver.

S

Safeguarding

The process of identifying children and young people who have suffered or who are likely to suffer significant harm, and then taking the appropriate steps to keep them safe.

School SEN Support

A category for young people (0-25) who need extra specialist support but not an EHC plan. This may take the form of additional support from within the school or require the involvement of specialist staff or support services. The purpose of SEN support is to help children achieve the outcomes or learning objectives that have been set for them by the school. Schools should involve parents in this process.

SEND Code of Practice

This is the statutory guidance that supports Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014. It tells local authorities, early years settings, schools, colleges, health and social care providers and others what they must and should do to identify, assess and provide for children and young people with SEN or disabilities.

Severe Learning Difficulty (SLD)

Pupils with SLD have significant intellectual or cognitive impairments. This will have an impact on their ability to participate in the school curriculum without support.

Social, mental and emotional health (SEMH)

Social, mental and emotional difficulties, usually resulting in behaviour difficulties, that present a barrier to learning and participation.

Special Education Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

SENDIASS offer free information, advice and support to parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs, and the young people themselves. They are statutory services which means there has to be one in every local authority.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

A child or young person who has special educational needs may:

- Find it harder to learn than other people their age
- Face challenges that make it hard to go to school or college
- Need extra or different support to learn

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST)

A panel set up to arbitrate when disagreements occur between parents and the local authority about the provision for a pupil's Special Educational Needs, or when a parent alleges discrimination on the grounds of a child's disability.

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)

The SENCO is the person at a school who is in charge of making sure students who have special educational needs or disabilities get the support they need.

Specialist services

Services provided by the local authority or health service to provide specialised services for children with acute or high level needs.

Specific Learning Disabilities (SpLD)

An umbrella term used to cover a range of frequently co-occurring difficulties, usually dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, ADD and ADHD.

Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

A wide range of difficulties related to all aspects of communication in children and young people. These can include difficulties with speech, understanding what others say, and using language socially.

Statutory assessment

A process of assessment referred to as an education, health and care needs assessment carried out by the Local Authority for a child or young person 0-25. An EHC needs assessment is a detailed look at a child's special educational needs (SEN) and the support he or she may need in order to learn.

Supported Internships

Supported internships are a structured study programme based primarily at an employer. They enable young people aged 16-24 with a statement of SEN, or an Education, Health and Care plan to achieve sustainable paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace.

T

Top-Up Funding

Additional funding available from the LA for pupils with high needs, i.e. those whose educational provision costs more than £10,000 per year

Transition plan

A plan drawn up at the annual review meeting which sets out the steps needed to move from one school to another or from school to adult life.

SEND Index of Acronyms

Acronym	Full meaning
AAC	Augmentative and Alternative Communication
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
ADL	Activities of daily living
APS	Average Point Score
ASC	Autistic Spectrum Condition
ASYE	Assessed and Supported Year in Employment
AWPU	Age Weighed Pupil Unit
C&YP	Children and Young People
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CCGs	Clinical Commissioning Groups
CFST	Children and Families Support Team
CHC	Continuing Health Care
CICC	Children in Care Council
CIN	Children in Need
CLASS	City of Leicester Association of Special Schools
CME	Children Missing Education
COLGA	City of Leicester Governors Association
CP	Child Protection
CPS	City Psychology Service
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CYP	Children and Young People
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
DAS	Duty and Advice Service
DCS	Director of Children's Services
DST	Decision Support Tool
E3F	Element 3 Funding
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EET	Education, Employment and Training
EHA	Early Help Assessment
EHC/ EHCP	Education Health and Care Plan

Acronym	Full meaning
EHP	Early Help Partnership
EHSS	Early Help Stay Safe
EIP	Education Improvement Partnership
ELG	Early Learning Goals
EP	Educational Psychologist
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
EWO	Education Welfare Officer
EWS	Education Welfare Service
EY	Early Years
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage
EYFSP	Early Years Foundation Stage Profile
EYST	Early Years Support Team
FASD	Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder
FS	Foundation Stage
FSM	Free School Meals
FTE	Fixed Term Exclusion from school
GCSE	General Certificate of Education
GLD	General Learning Difficulties
GLD	Good Level of Development
HI	Hearing Impairment
HLTA	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
HMCI	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector
HOS	Head of Service
HST	Hearing Support Team
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KS1	Key Stage 1: National Curriculum Years (NCYs) 1 and 2, ages 5-7
KS2	Key Stage 2: NCYs 3, 4, 5, and 6, ages 7-11
KS3	Key Stage 3: NCYs 7, 8 and 9, ages 11-14
KS4	Key Stage 4: NCYs 10 and 11, ages 14-16
KTC	Knowledge Transfer Centre
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked After Children

Acronym	Full meaning
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LARP	Leicester Access to Resources Panel
LCCIB	Leicester City Council Improvement Board
LCI	Learning, Communication and Interaction Team
LCT	Leicester Children's Trust
LDD	Learning Difficulty or Disability
LLEs	Local Leaders of Education
LLR	Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
LP	Leicester Partnership
LPP	Leicester Primary Partnership
LPS	Leicester Partnership School
LSAB	Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board
LSCB	Leicester Safeguarding Children Board
LSOAs	Lower Super Output Areas
MACFA	Multi Agency Case File Audit
MCA	Mental Capacity Assessment
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulties
MSI	Multi Sensory Impairment
NCY	National Curriculum Year
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NLEs	National Leaders of Education
NLGs	National Leaders of Governance
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
ONE	The commercial system for the local authority pupil database
PA	Persistent absence
PD	Physical Disability
PEEP	Peer Early Education Partnership
PEPs	Personal Education Plans
PEX	Permanent Exclusion from school
PI	Performance Indicator
PMLD	Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
PSEMH	Primary Social, Emotional and Mental Health Team

Acronym	Full meaning
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
PSP	Pastoral Support Plan
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent
QA	Quality Assurance
QFT	Quality First Teaching
RI	Requires Improvement
RI	Registered Inspector
SA	Single Assessment
SALT	Speech and Language Therapy
SAO	School Attendance Order
SCR	Serious Case Review
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
SEN/SEND	Special Educational Needs (and Disabilities)
SENCo	Special Educational Needs Coordinator
SENDIASS	Special Education Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service
SENDIST	Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal
SFR	Statistical First Release
SIMS	Schools Information Management Systems
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
SLD	Severe Learning Disability
SLEs	Specialist Leaders of Education
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Agreed upon, Realistic and Time-based (used for targets)
SMT	Senior Management Team
SLD	Specific Learning Disabilities
SRE	Sex and Relationship Education
TBC	To be Confirmed
TFL	Tertiary Federation Leicester
TP	Teenage Pregnancy
UHL	University Hospitals Leicester
VST	Vision Support Team
WIT	Whatever It Takes
YOS	Youth Offending Service
YPC	Young People's Council