

- What opportunities will there be for me to discuss any concerns about my child that I may have/ discuss their progress?
- How will my child be included in school trips / activities outside the classroom etc?
- My child also has a disability, how accessible is the school environment?
- Will my child be asked about the SpEP being made for them?
- My child is older than 16 years of age. Can I still ask questions/ be involved in making decisions about the SpEP that is being made for them in school?
- How can I be involved in supporting my child at home so that the SpEP being delivered by school, and if appropriate by the EA can be as effective as possible?

USEFUL DOCUMENTS

[The Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs](#)

[Supplement to the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs](#)

[Disability Discrimination Code of Practice for Schools](#)

[DE Resource File for Special Educational Needs](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

The SEN Advice and Information Service helps parents of children with special educational needs access support, guidance, and advice in relation to the needs of their children.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS HELPLINE

TEL: 028 9598 5960

When you call the SEN Helpdesk you will be given several options:

Choose option 1:

To select a local area office for specific SEN queries about a particular child

Choose option 2:

For all general SEN queries.

Choose option 3:

To make a request for consideration for Statutory Assessment

The SEN helpline operates Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

DISPUTE AVOIDANCE & RESOLUTION SERVICE

Tel: 028 9072 6060

Global Mediation, 55-59 Adelaide Street, Belfast

Global Mediation is an independent service which provides an informal means for parents and children over compulsory school age to avoid and resolve disagreements with schools or the Education Authority in relation to a child or young person who has or may have special educational needs.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY TRIBUNAL

Tel: 028 9072 4887

Email: tribunalsunit@courtsni.gov.uk

This is an independent body which hears appeals against the Education Authority's decisions on Statutory Assessments and Statements of Special Educational Needs.



My child/young person has special educational needs...



What questions can I ask my school about the special educational provision being made for them?

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.ccea.org.uk

www.childrenslawcentre.org

www.eani.org.uk

www.niccy.org.uk

www.senac.co.uk

I have been told by the school that my child has special educational needs. What does this mean?

In the Education Order (NI) 1996, a child is described as having special educational needs (SEN), if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

What is a learning difficulty?

Your child has a learning difficulty if they have:

- a) a greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of his/her age,
- b) a disability which either prevents or hinders him/her from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of his/her age in ordinary schools, or
- c) not attained the lower limit of compulsory school age and is or would be if special educational provision were not made for him/her, likely to fall within sub-paragraph (a) or (b) when they are of compulsory school age.

What is special educational provision?

Special educational provision (SpEP) is something that is additional to, or otherwise different from, the educational provision generally made for pupils of the same age in an ordinary (i.e. mainstream) school.

Who can I talk to in school about the special educational provision that is being made for my child?

If your child's school thinks that your child needs SpEP, they will be placed on the school's SEN Register. Only the school can decide if your child should be placed on this register.

The school will meet with you to discuss your child's needs and agree the targets/expected outcomes for their IEP/PLP, the additional provision that the school will put in place and what you can do to support your child.

Although every school will have their own policy and procedures for arranging contact with members of staff; your child's class teacher will usually be the first person that you should speak to if you have any questions about the SpEP being made for your child as they are responsible for the day-to-day teaching of your child.

It may also be helpful to speak to the school's special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo) if you have any further queries.

In some cases, you may need to contact the school's principal or the board of governors if you have any concerns about the SpEP being made for your child.

A list of useful documents, contact details and websites are given overleaf if you need any information, advice and support about SEN.

What questions can I ask the school about the special educational provision that is being made for my child?

The following questions may be helpful for you to ask the school to get information about what SpEP they are putting in place for your child. Of course, you may have other questions to ask:

- What training have staff received to help them understand and support the types of SEN that my child has?
- What strategies have been put in place to support my child's SEN? How will the curriculum be changed to meet my child's needs?
- What additional resources/ SpEP does the school have to support my child's SEN?
- Does the school receive any specialist support from the Education Authority or Health and Social Care trust?
- Who else will be involved in supporting my child?
- What are the targets that have been set for my child? Are they specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound?
- How will my child's progress be monitored, evaluated and reviewed?
- What happens if my child does not make adequate progress in meeting IEP/PLP targets/expected outcomes?