



Department
for Education



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Let's talk about helping all children and young people to learn.



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About this easy read



This is an easy read version of a longer document by the **government**.

Government is a group of people who make decisions about a country.



Easy read is written for people with learning disabilities.



This easy read is still quite long. You do not have to read it all at once. You can ask someone to help you.



You might want to take a break, or just read the pages you are interested in.

Introduction



The government wants to improve support for children and young people with SEND.



SEND means **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**.

These changes will affect:



- children and young people
- parents
- nurseries, schools and colleges
- councils and other organisations





We must listen to people to make sure we get the changes right.



Children, young people, parents and organisations have important things to say.



We have already listened to people's experiences at 100 events.



This is all part of our **national conversation** about SEND. This document tells you how to get involved.



The things people say are helping the government to write a **White Paper** about SEND.

A **White Paper** is a long document about the changes we want to make.



It will be ready in 2026.



People can read the White Paper, then tell us what they think.

This is called a **consultation**.



The national conversation

How to get involved:

1) Read this document. It is about:

- SEND support
- our plans
- some questions to think about



2) Join our online meetings



3) Answer questions on our website



SEND Support



Children and young people with SEND sometimes need extra **support** in school or college.

Support can mean things like:



- a timetable with large print and pictures
- being able to work on a laptop
- working in small groups
- help from a teaching assistant
- extra time to finish work



Support is different for every child or young person.

Our plans

We want to make SEND support better. We will:



- listen to people who have experience of SEND support



- help people to trust us, and to know that we want to help



- make sure that children and young people get the support they need



- help every child and young person to achieve the things they want to

We want SEND support to be:



1) Early

Children get help as soon as possible.



2) Local

Children learn close to home.



3) Fair

Every child gets the support they need.



4) Effective

Changes make a real difference.



5) Shared

Everyone works well together.

What do you think?



The next 5 pages give you some questions to think and talk about.

The questions will help you to:



- fill in our online form



- take part in our online meetings



- get ready for the White Paper consultation.

1

Early

Children should get support as soon as they need it.



Imagine a child is struggling to learn at school:

- How can we find out why they are struggling?



- How can help them more quickly?



- The help they need will change as they get older.

How can we make sure that their support changes as well?

2

Local

Children should learn in schools and colleges close to their homes.



Special schools will still be there for children with the most **complex needs**.



Children with **complex needs** need more support than a mainstream school can give them.



How can we help children and young people to learn closer to home?



What do you think about **SEND Hubs** and **Centres of Excellence**?



A **SEND Hub** is like a support centre in a school.



It helps children and young people with SEND to get the extra help they need, to:

- learn
- take part in school life
- feel included

3

Fair

Every school should be able to help most children. Parents should not have to fight for support.



How can we make sure that children and young people get the support they need?



What support do families need?

For example:

- good information
- help to speak up for their child
- support with meetings and forms



4

Effective

Help children in ways that we know will work well.



Do teachers and other staff need more training about SEND?

What should the training be about?



How can we help **SENCOs**?

A **SENCO** is a teacher who organises children and young people's support.



How can we help schools and colleges to make good decisions about SEND support?

5

Shared

Schools, health services, and families should work together as a team.



How can organisations work together in better ways?

For example, schools, colleges, doctors and councils.



Becoming an adult: how should schools, colleges and workplaces help children as they get older?



How can we help families to be more involved and cope with any problems?

How to join the national conversation



Join an online event

Learn more about the changes and ask questions.



[This is the link to sign up for events.](#)



Fill in our online form

There are lots of questions. You do not have to answer them all.

Thinking about the questions in this document first will help you.



[This is a link to the online form.](#)



What happens next?

We will publish the **Schools White Paper**.



We will ask people what they think about the White Paper.



We will to listen to people's experiences of SEND support.



This will help us to make sure that the changes work well.