

Children and young people with SEN all have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children and young people of the same age. These children and young people may need extra or different help from that given to others.

Many children and young people who have SEN may also have a disability. A disability is described in law (the Equality Act 2010) as 'a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term (a year or more) and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.' If your child has a disability, whether or not they have SEN, their school must make reasonable adjustments.

Your child's school must provide you with an annual report on your child's progress. They should talk to you regularly about your child's progress, (at least three times a year), set clear outcomes and produce a report of these as well as the action taken and support agreed. This should be closely linked to their PEP Desirable Outcomes.

A parent carer guide on Special Needs and Disabilities is available here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/417435/](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417435/Special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_guide_for_parents_and_carers.pdf)

[Special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disabilities\\_guide\\_for\\_parents\\_and\\_carers.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417435/Special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_guide_for_parents_and_carers.pdf)

**How to contact us:**  
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@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

01223 699883

[www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/  
school-improvement/  
cambridgeshires-virtual-school-  
for-looked-after-children](http://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/school-improvement/cambridgeshires-virtual-school-for-looked-after-children)

Our other leaflets give information on a wide range of further topics such as the PEP, PP+, How to help with learning, Attendance & Exclusions. Please go to our website.

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**Special Educational  
Needs & Disabilities  
(SEND)**

**For Foster Carers &  
their Social Workers**



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If your child/young person is not at an age appropriate level, school will be working hard to close the gap. Where necessary, adjustments will be made to support the pupil under the guidance of the school's Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENCo).

School will use an 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' cycle with targets listed. Children in care will have some/all of these targets within their PEP.

School monitors the rate of progress very carefully and evidence of what has been tried is collated.

Cambridgeshire: If the gap hasn't narrowed, then school may decide that the pupil needs an 'Education, Health Care Plan' (EHCP). The paperwork is completed and sent to the 'Statutory Assessment Team' (SAT) to see if it meets their criteria. If it does, the evidence is presented to a Panel who decide whether or not to issue an EHCP.

Other local authorities may not follow the same procedure as Cambridgeshire. Please ask for further information.

## The SEND Code of Practice has 4 broad areas of need.

Some children/young people cut across these areas: e.g. Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

# 1

### Communication and Interaction

Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

# 2

### Cognition and Learning

Moderate learning difficulties (MLD)  
Severe learning difficulties (SLD)  
Profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD)

# 3

### Social, Emotional, Mental Health Difficulties

Including Attachment Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

# 4

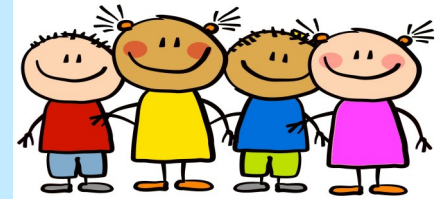
### Sensory and/or Physical Needs

Vision impairment (VI)  
Hearing impairment (HI)  
Multi-sensory impairment (MSI)  
Physical disability (PD)

If you would like to talk to someone about your concerns regarding your child/young person's needs, please go to the 'Parent Partnership' website:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer/local-offer-care-and-family-support/send-information-advice-and-support-service-sendiass>

As well as their phone number and email address, there are lots of helpful documents.



Every local authority has to publish their 'Local Offer' regarding what they can provide in terms of support for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Cambridgeshire's Offer can be found here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer>

The SEND Code of Practice can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>