

Heathmere



Respect Resilience

High expectations

Heathmere Primary School

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Reforms 2014

Information for Parents

Changes to SEND

Introduction

There have been a number of changes to legislation regarding support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities in schools (see SEND Code of Practice 2014 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>).

The new system came into effect in September 2014, although the changes from the old system to the new, will be gradual.

The new legislation aims to change the way that education, health and social care professionals work together, with the intention of giving children, young people and families a greater say in the types of support available to them in educational settings, locally and nationally.

SEN

A child or young person has a Special Educational Need if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for other children and young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

A child of compulsory school age has a Special Educational Need if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age

or

- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.

Key Changes

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans

- Education Health and Care (EHC) plans will replace Statements of Special Educational Need.
- From 1 September 2014 transitional arrangements are in place to support the changeover from the current system in a phased and ordered way, to facilitate the transfer of those with statements of special educational needs to EHC plans. It is expected that all those who have a statement, and who would have continued to have one under the current system, will be transferred to an EHC plan.
- An EHC plan considers a child's or young person's needs relating to education, health and social care, rather than educational needs only.
- EHC plans will be personalised and the child and family will be involved in the plan.
- Parents and carers have access to a key worker if they wish who can advocate for the family and child.
- The timeframe to produce an EHC plan is 20 weeks as opposed to 26 weeks with a Statement of Special Educational Needs.
- A personal budget may be requested to help support a child or young person.

As with current Statements of Special Educational Needs, Education, Health and Care plans will be reviewed on a yearly basis in an annual review meeting. This meeting will involve the child, parents or carers and any invited professionals who work closely with the child. The new reforms include a greater emphasis on the views of children and young people; as such and where appropriate, annual reviews are likely to become very pupil-centred.

SEN Support

SEN Support replaces School Action and School Action Plus.

SEN support places emphasis on a graduated approach; namely, assess, plan, do and review. Desired outcomes will be agreed and the impact of the support provided for your child in relation to the outcomes will be reviewed regularly.

The new system places an emphasis on the important of high quality teaching for all children in the first instance.

The Local Offer

The Local Offer includes information for parents and carers regarding Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in a single place. It refers to services offered by local agencies, including education, health and social care. The Local Offer can be found by clicking on the following link:

[Wandsworth Local Offer](#)

The Department for Education has published guidance for parents, which can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

If you have any queries about any of the information in this guide, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Salih, Assistant Head for Inclusion and SENCo on 0208 788 9057.