

Special Educational Needs: A Glossary of Definitions and Abbreviations

Special Educational Needs is an area which has its own language of definitions and abbreviations. These can be quite baffling at first for parents, but you will become familiar with them. Here are some of the most common.

Definitions

Annual Review

A yearly review of a Statement of Special Educational needs

Connexions

A service which provides a single point of access for all 13 to 19 year olds to prepare them for the transition to work and adult life. It is delivered primarily through a network of Personal Advisers.

Disagreement Resolution

All Local Authorities (LAs) must provide arrangements to help prevent or resolve disagreements between parents of children with special educational needs and the LA or the school. These must include an independent service with trained mediators, designed to bring the different parties together in an informal way to try to resolve the disagreement through discussion.

Early Education Settings

All pre-school education provision, such as nursery classes and schools, day nurseries and play groups.

Early Years

All LAs must establish an early years team to work with them in reviewing the sufficiency of nursery education and preparing early years development plans.

The Graduated Approach

The Graduated Approach recognises that children learn in different ways and can have different kinds and levels of special educational needs. Step by step, the school or the early education setting must provide additional help. They may also call on more specialist help in order to assess the child's needs and make appropriate provision.



Individual Education Plan (IEP)

A plan devised by the school that sets learning targets for your child to achieve. A review date will be set in it to monitor the progress your child is making.

Independent Parental Supporter (IPA)

Someone who can support parents, for example by going to meetings, encouraging parents to get involved and helping them to understand the SEN procedures. IPS in North Somerset are provided by **Supportive Parents**, a voluntary parent-led organisation providing a confidential and independent parental support service for parents of children with special educational needs.

Learning Support Assistant (LSA)

A widely used job title for an assistant providing in-school support for children with special educational needs. LSAs are one group of assistants within the broader classification of “teaching assistants”.

Local Authority (LA)

A Local Government body that is responsible for providing education and for carrying out Statutory Assessments and maintaining Statements.

Maintained School

A local education authority maintained school is one that is funded by the local authority.

Named LA Officer

The person at the LA who deals with your child’s case and who will talk to you if you have any enquiries or concerns. This will normally be the SEN officer who deals with your area.

Note in Lieu

A document produced by the LA which describes a child’s special educational needs, explains why a Statement of Special Educational Needs is **not** needed, and sets out what should be done to help the child.

Parent Partnership Service

All LAs must make arrangements to provide an independent service offering information, support and advice to parents of children with special educational needs, helping them to play an active and informed role in their children’s education. In North Somerset, this service is provided by the independent, parent-led organisation **Supportive Parents**.



SEN code of Practice

A guide for early education settings, state schools and LAs on the help they can give to children with special educational needs. Schools and LAs must take account of the Code when they deal with a child with special educational needs.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special education provision.

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST)

An independent body that hears appeals against decisions made by LAs on Statutory Assessments and Statements, as well as claims of disability discrimination.

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)

The teacher in each school and early education setting with responsibility for the planning of the special educational provision in that school.

Special Educational Provision

The extra or different help given to children with special educational needs.

Special School

A school that is just for children with Statements of Special Educational Needs. In North Somerset, we have three: Baytree, Ravenswood and Westhaven.

Statement of Special Educational Needs

A document that sets out a child's special educational needs and all the extra help he/she should get.

Statutory Assessment

A very detailed examination of a child's special educational needs. It may lead to a Statement.

Teaching Assistant

See Learning Support Assistant

Transition Plan

A plan drawn up after the Year 9 Annual review of a Statement. It sets out the steps needed to move from school to adult life. It must involve the Connexions Service Personal Adviser.

Abbreviations

ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
BESD	Behaviour, Emotional and Social Needs
HI	Hearing Impairment
IEP	Individual Education Plan
LA	Local Authority
LSA	Learning Support Assistant
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulties
OfSTED	Office for Standards in Education
MSI	Multi-sensory Impairment
PD	Physical Disabilities
PMLD	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
PSP	Pastoral Support Plan
SENCo	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator
SLD	Severe Learning Difficulties
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulties
TA	Teaching Assistant
VI	Visual Impairment

Contact us

Special Educational Needs Team
 North Somerset Council
 Children & Young People's Services
 Town Hall
 Weston-super-Mare
 BS23 1UJ

Telephone: 01275 888 297 or
 01275 884 423

Fax: 01275 888 309