

SEND Reforms Key Messages for Parents and Carers

On the 23 February, the Government announced a consultation on SEND Reforms, alongside an Education White Paper.

It's important to note that nothing changes today. These proposals are now in a 12-week consultation period.

There will be no changes to existing Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP's), as a result of these proposals, for 3 years.

What is proposed to change?

There will be a 4-tier SEND system, consisting of:

UNIVERSAL - support every child will get across all schools, which includes reasonable adjustments and support with subjects if your child is falling behind.

TARGETED- for instance- small group interventions such as speech and language.

TARGETED PLUS- more specialist support from external professionals.

The children and young people on Targeted and Targeted Plus will have a digital Individual Support Plan, we believe there will be a national template for this.

SPECIALIST- children with the most complex needs, beyond the support mainstream settings can routinely provide.

Children and young people on the Specialist level will have a digital EHCP (we believe there will be a national template for this) and a digital Inclusion Support Plan.

Will my child lose their EHCP?

For children in mainstream:

If your child is 8 years old or over now, they will keep their EHCP until they are at least 16.

If your child is 7 or younger in mainstream, your child will be reassessed at their first transition point from September 2029.

For children in specialist school:

They will retain their EHCP and their placement.

Schools

Money has been allocated for SEND training for all teachers and teaching assistants.

All secondary schools will be expected to have Inclusion Support Bases. Government is proposing 2 types:

- Support Base for children with a **support plan** (not an Education, Health and Care Plan) who may need short periods outside their usual classroom.

- Specialist Base for children with EHCPs.

Primary schools will have a similar arrangement but Inclusion Support Bases may be shared across a number of schools, rather than in every school.

Experts at Hand

Children in mainstream settings who need support from specialists will be supported through a new programme called Experts at Hand, this may include professionals such as speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, educational psychologists and specialist teachers.

Tribunal and Legal Rights

Mediation and tribunal will still exist.

It is proposed that you will still be able to appeal:

- The decision not to carry out a needs assessment.
- Not meeting the threshold for an EHCP (there will be new national thresholds)
- Decision to cease.
- If you think your child needs a different package of support.
- The setting named (but the Tribunal will no longer be able to name a specific provision).

Whilst we acknowledge there are many challenges and you may have some concerns about these reforms, there are also positives such as the emphasis on belonging and inclusion that Solihull has already been committed to and working towards.

If you want to read the documents about the reforms you can find them below.

Summary for parents:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2026/02/schools-white-paper-what-parents-need-to-know-about-changes-to-the-send-system/>

SEND Reforms Consultation:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69986263b33a4db7ff889ecb/SEND_reform_putting_children_and_young_people_first_government_consultation.pdf

Schools White Paper:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/every-child-achieving-and-thriving>

Proposed Specialist Provision Packages:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-first/specialist-provision-packages>

If you would like to respond to the consultation, you can do so here:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/send-strategy-division/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-firs/>

