

SEND Reforms

Session with parent and carers (SPCV)

7th September 2026

Education and inclusion

We put children and young people at the heart of everything we do

Local SEND Reform Plan

Why are we doing this?

- National SEND reforms were announced in February 2026.
- Every local area has been asked to develop a SEND Reform Plan.
- Our plan focuses on improving experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.
- The plan has now been submitted to the Department for Education.



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1. Our shared ambition: Every child and young person with SEND can thrive in Solihull

We know that many families:

- Have struggled to access support
- Have had to repeat their story multiple times
- Have experienced delays and uncertainty
- Want the best possible outcomes for their children
- Our SEND Reform Plan is our commitment to improving these experiences



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2. What is not changing yet? What families can be reassured about.

- EHCPs remain in place
- Existing SEND legislation remains in place
- Children in specialist provision will not have to move
- Specialist provision remains an important part of the SEND system
- Parents continue to have legal rights
- Decisions will continue to be made based on individual need

There will be no changes to any SEND legislation, nor EHCPs, before 2029.



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3. What difference will this make to my child?

What we want families to experience

- ✓ School gets specialist advice more quickly
- ✓ Staff are better trained to support your child
- ✓ More support available before problems escalate
- ✓ Better support with transitions
- ✓ More opportunities to attend a school local to them

The ambition is that children receive the right support earlier and closer to home.



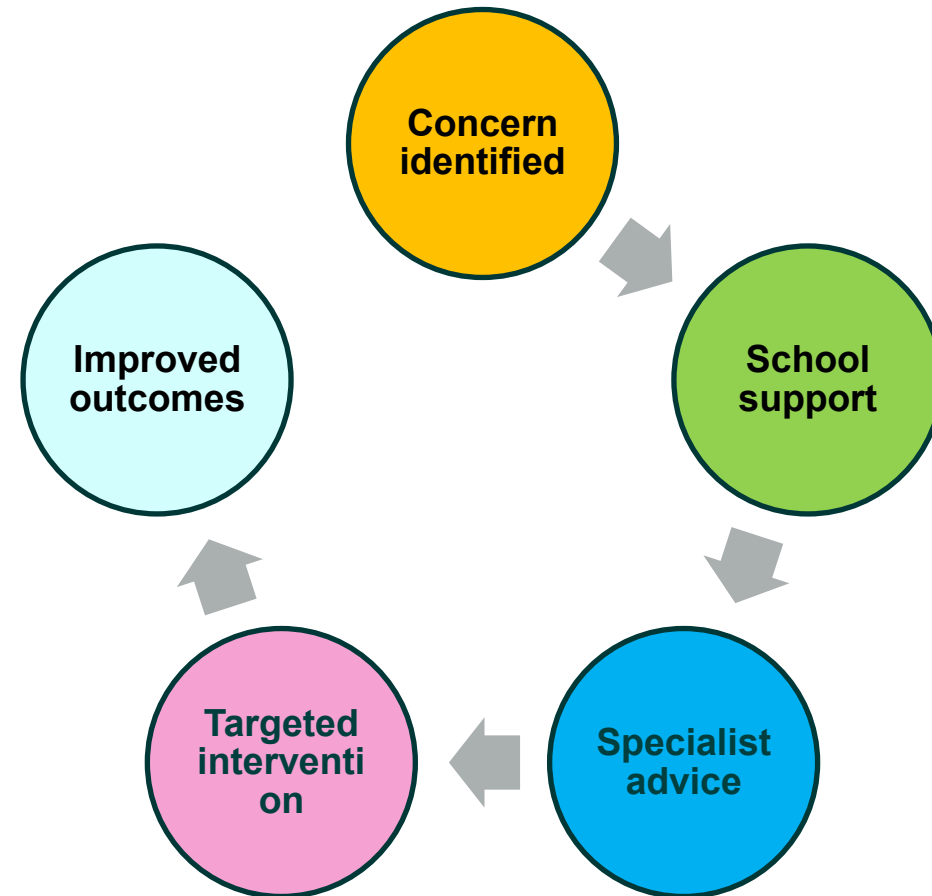
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4. Helping children before difficulties escalate

What we want to happen:

- Earlier identification of needs
- Faster access to advice
- Better support for schools
- More consistency across Solihull



5. Support around the child



Family

Educational Psychology

Speech & Language

Occupational Therapy

Specialist Teachers

Inclusion Services

Health Services

Our "**Experts at Hand**" approach aims to make specialist expertise more accessible to schools and families.

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What is Experts at Hand?

Helping schools access specialist advice more quickly, so children get the right support earlier.

Before

- ✗ School identifies a concern
- ✗ Long wait for specialist advice
- ✗ Support can be delayed

Experts at Hand

- ✓ School identifies a concern
- ✓ Faster access to specialist expertise
- ✓ Earlier support for the child

Experts at Hand does not replace referrals, assessments or EHCP processes where these are needed. It helps schools access specialist advice earlier.

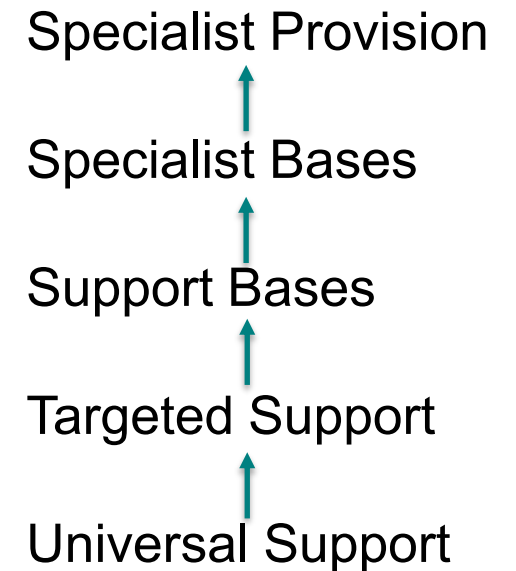
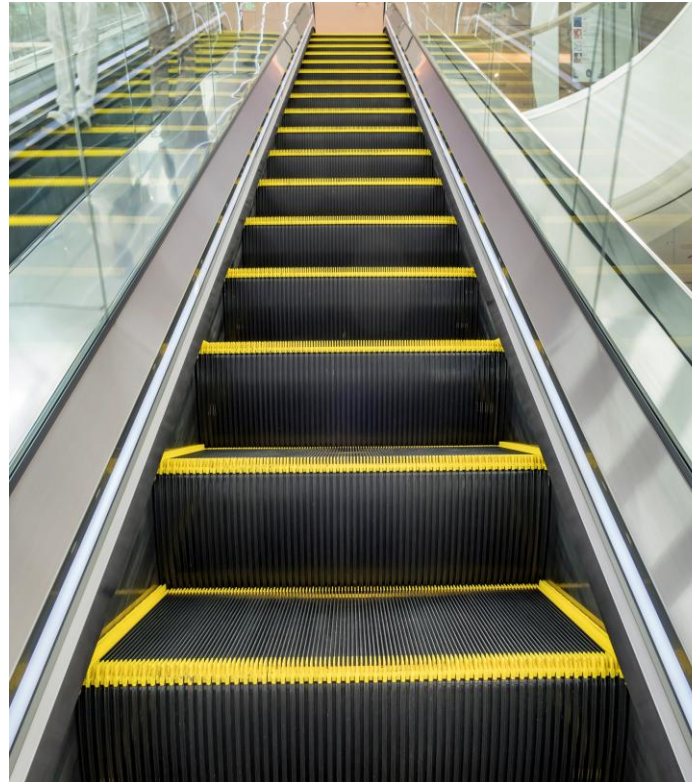
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6. Creating a continuum of support

We want children and young people to have access to:

- High-quality support in mainstream schools
- Extra support for children who need it
- Specialist support where needed
- More local options for families



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What are support bases and specialist bases?

Support Bases

Extra support within a mainstream school (many schools have similar arrangements already):

- Run by school
- Children and young people placed by the school
- Children remain part of their mainstream school community
- Additional support is available when needed
- Suitable for children who need more help than is usually available in a mainstream classroom
- An EHCP is not required

The aim is to increase local options for families, not remove support.

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What are support bases and specialist bases?

Specialist Bases

Specialist provision within a mainstream school (similar to our current ARPs – Additional Resource Provisions):

- Commissioned by the Local Authority
- Children and young people placed by the Local Authority
- Designed for children with more complex needs
- For children with an EHCP
- Access to specialist staff and facilities
- Opportunities to learn alongside mainstream peers where appropriate

Special schools remain an important part of the SEND system for children and young people who need that level of provision.

7. Co-production at the heart of the reform



We will continue to:

- Listen to parent and carer feedback
- Work alongside Solihull Parent Carer Voice
- Work with SEND groups within the community
- Involve families in shaping services
- Share progress and change openly

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8. What success looks like

Measures:

- ✓ Children getting support earlier
- ✓ Improved attendance
- ✓ Reduced exclusions
- ✓ Improved outcomes
- ✓ Positive family feedback
- ✓ Increased parental confidence in mainstream provision



Our goal is: better experiences and better outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

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9. When will we see changes?

During 2026/27

- Detailed planning
- Design of new services
- Co-production with families

During 2027/28

- New approaches begin to roll out

During 2028/29

- Further expansion and evaluation

This is a long-term improvement programme, not an overnight change.

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FEEDBACK & QUESTIONS

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