

# Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

## SEN Code of Practice

You may be aware that from September 2014, the new SEN Code of Practice comes into force. As a result of this there will be some changes to the way schools and local authorities ensure that the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are met.

### What does this mean to me?

From September 2014, all local authorities must publish in one place information about the services they expect to be available in their area for children and young people 0 - 25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. This is known as the local offer.

The development of a local offer is one of a number of changes to the way children and young people with SEND are supported that are part of the Children and Families Act. Schools will also publish an annual Special Educational Needs Information Report, which will outline what individual schools are able to offer in order to support children and families with SEND. You can find out more about Cambridgeshire's Local Offer on <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/send>.

### What will the local offer cover?

The local offer will include information about health and social care services, education, leisure activities and support groups in the area for children and young people aged 0 - 25 with SEND and their families. There will be information about:  services and support available  how children and young people's needs are identified and assessed  the way schools, colleges and maintained nurseries support children and young people with SEND  how to access services and how decisions are made  preparation for adulthood and independence  arrangements for making a complaint and mediation  how to comment on the local offer The Department for Education's draft SEN Code of Practice and regulations outlines the range of information to be included in the local offer.

### **Why is the local offer important?**

The local offer will help parents, carers and young people to see clearly the range of services and support that are available in their local area and understand how to access them. Information about our special needs provision (the school offer) is published annually on our school website. If you require additional information, please contact the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Mrs Caroline Courtney via the office ([office@grove.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@grove.cambs.sch.uk)) or by phone (01223 577017).