

What are Special Educational needs?

The Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice (2014) came into force on 1st September 2014. It covers the 0-25 age range and includes guidance relating to disabled children and young people as well as those with SEN.

The definition of SEN taken from the Code of Practice (2014) is:

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability 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 or mainstream post-16 institutions

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for others of the same age. This means provision that goes beyond the differentiated approaches and learning arrangements normally provided as part of high quality, personalised teaching (NASEN, 2014).

Special educational needs and provision can be considered as falling under four broad areas:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, mental and emotional health
- Sensory and/or physical

For further information regarding specific SEN including ADHD, Dyslexia and Autism Spectrum Disorders please see the attached documents on the SEN page.