

What is a Statutory Assessment of SEN?

Only a very small percentage of children require support of an additional or more complex nature. If this is the case, then the SENCO may discuss with you the possibility of asking the Local Authority to undertake a statutory assessment of your child's needs.

If this is considered appropriate, then the School will collect together all your child's information and evidence of all the carefully evaluated additional strategies and interventions that have been put place and with your permission send it off to the Local Authority for them to consider the information at a panel meeting and make a decision whether or not to carry out a statutory assessment of your child's needs. Whilst this is taking place the School will continue to meet your child's needs with the support that is already in place.

Once the Local Authority receives a request to consider whether to make a statutory assessment or not, a legal timescale begins. The process of statutory assessment is carefully bound by the legislation and guidance within the SEN Code of Practice. The SENCO will be able to explain the process and timescales to you or alternatively you would find this in the SEN Code of Practice. For more information go to www.barnsley.gov.uk/SEN

If the decision is made to go ahead with a statutory assessment then the Local Authority will signpost you to guidance and support that will assist you through the process for example from the Parent Partnership Service.

The statutory Assessment of SEN is a legal document which states the level of provision that the school and other services have to provide. Funding for this is met by the school budget or through top up funding from Barnsley LA. This is reviewed annually.

If a Statutory Assessment is not agreed, parents have the right to appeal. Parent Partnership Services can help in this instance.