



SEND Reforms 2026 – Information for Parents/Carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

The government has recently published long-term proposals for changes to the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system and has opened a national consultation. Although these proposals are still being explored, we want to ensure families are aware of what is being discussed and how you can have your say. Anyone with an interest in SEND – including children, young people and their families – is invited to contribute to the consultation.

What's Important to Know Right Now

Nothing is changing at this stage. Schools continue to follow the current SEND system, including all existing duties and support. Any national changes are several years away, and we will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

A Summary of the Proposals

The government's plans outline how the SEND system may develop by the end of the decade. These remain proposals only, and no changes to the current framework are expected before at least September 2029.

Key ideas include:

- A stronger universal offer: High quality, adaptive teaching for all pupils.
- Inclusion Bases: Every secondary school having a dedicated space for personalised support, replacing older terms like "SEN units".
- More specialist involvement in schools: Increased input from professionals such as educational psychologists and speech and language therapists.
- Individual Support Plans: A digital plan coproduced with families for pupils needing more targeted help.
- New developmental categories: Moving from "areas of need" to five "areas of development": Executive Function; Motor & Physical; Sensory; Social & Emotional; Speech, Language & Communication.

The proposals also place greater emphasis on earlier planning for post16 transitions and on supporting young people towards employment, independence, and further training.

Timeline for Potential Changes

- EHCPs: No changes for students with existing EHCPs before at least September 2030.
- Legislation: Any new laws (if approved) would not take effect before September 2029.
- New assessments: These would begin from September 2029 and only at natural transition points.
- Further consultation: Another consultation on the SEND Code of Practice will take place before changes are finalised.

Have Your Say

The government is inviting feedback on these proposals, and your views matter. Whether or not your child has SEND, the reforms could influence the wider education system in the years ahead.

You can read the full proposals and submit a response online through the consultation portal: [SEND reform: putting children and young people first - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)
Engaging in consultations like this helps ensure national policy is shaped by the lived experiences of children, young people, and their families.

We Will Keep You Informed

For now, everything continues exactly as it is. We will share further updates once more information becomes available nationally.

Yours faithfully,



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SENDCo