

A Parent's Guide to SEND

What is SEND?

SEND stands for **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities** and describes learning difficulties or disabilities that mean your child may need more support than other children of their age. The support may vary from input at school to input from external providers such as speech and language therapy.

SEND covers both learning and behavioural difficulties, and there are 4 broad areas of SEN need:

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

What is the first step?

1. If you think your child may need additional support, please raise your concern with the class teacher.
2. If, following teacher assessments and support, your child is not progressing, the teacher may make a referral to the school's SENCO, who may carry out assessments and observations and then suggest next steps. You may have a meeting with the class teacher and SENCO at this point, if further intervention is required. Children requiring this level of support are considered to be working at a level referred to as SEN Support (see below). This categorisation is fluid and children may move in/out of SEN Support. Parents/carers will always be fully informed of this.
3. If your child's needs are more complex and long term, the school may need to consider applying for an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) from Trafford Council. This provides the school with extra funding to support your child.
4. For further information, please refer to the BCS SEND Policy: <https://www.bowdoncs.org.uk/send/>

What is SEN support?

- Adapting the way your child is taught, e.g. giving instructions in a different way, visual timetables, variety of teaching methods/input
- Using specialist equipment and resources
- Specific interventions (1-1 or in small groups) to address your child's specific needs
- Support from specialists such as speech and language therapists, occupational therapy, external education advisors

Who else may be involved with my child?

SALT – Speech and language therapist / therapy

OT – Occupational therapist

EP – Educational Psychologist

CAMHS – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Play Therapist

MHP: Mental Health Practitioner

School Nurse

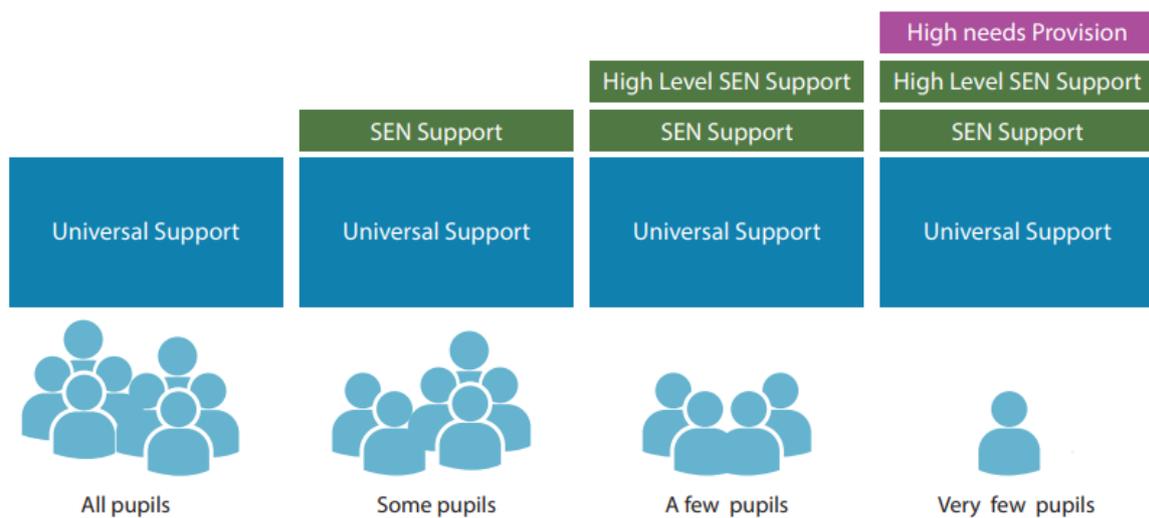
Physiotherapy

Useful links:

The school website – lots of SEN resources and further information available:

<https://www.bowdoncs.org.uk/send/>

[The Graduated Approach](#) – an explanation of SEN levels of support:



Trafford SEND Local Offer – a treasure trove of information on services available in Trafford for children, parent and carers with SEN:

<https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/localoffer.page?newlocalofferchannel=0>

SENDIASS (Trafford Special Educational Needs and Disability Information and Support Service) – an independent advice service for parents/carers of children with SEN:

<https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/service.page?id=fEQ0jVm7p8s&newlocalofferchannel=0>

Trafford Parents Forum – Parents support group – a source of help and advice around SEN:

https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/service.page?id=m9xlpV_FGOs&newlocalofferchannel=0

Place 2 Be – improving children’s mental health: <https://www.place2be.org.uk/>