

What are Special Educational Needs?

A Special Educational Need and/or Disability (SEND) is a difficulty or barrier that affects a child's ability to learn and to access the curriculum. It may be appropriate for a pupil with SEND to access provision which is 'additional to' or 'different from' the educational provision made generally for pupils of their age.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities can fall into one or more of the following categories:

- **Communication and Interaction**— for example, where children have speech, language and communication difficulties which make it difficult for them to make sense of language or to understand how to communicate effectively and appropriately with others.
- **Cognition and Learning** -for example, where children learn at a slower pace than others their age, have difficulty in understanding parts of the curriculum, have difficulties with organisation and memory skills, or have a specific difficulty affecting one particular part of their learning performance such as in literacy or numeracy.
- **Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties**— for example, where children have speech, language and communication difficulties which make it difficult for them to make sense of language or to understand how to communicate effectively and appropriately with others.
- **Sensory and/or Physical Needs**— for example, children with visual and/or hearing impairments, or a physical need that means they must have additional ongoing support and /or equipment.