# GETTING EXTRA OR DIFFERENT TYPES OF HELP AT SCHOOL: SEN SUPPORT



This information sheet is for you if you are under 16 years old, attend a school, and want to know:

- What SEN Support is?
- Why you might need it?



Do you find learning or taking part at school a struggle and need extra or different types of help for this, compared to other students of the same age?

Are you aged between 0-25 years old?

If yes, this may mean you have Special Educational Needs (SEN)!



#### **EXAMPLES OF SEN:**

You may have one or more of the following difficulties:

- Math's or English (spellings, writing or reading)
- Concentration/focusing in class
- Speaking or understanding what's been said
- Seeing or hearing
- Anxiety or feeling depressed
- Making or keeping friendships
- Getting frustrated or angry often
- Walking, using your arms or hands
- Sensitive to noise and big crowds
- Health needs that make it difficult to learn
- Other?

If you have SEN, the extra or different types of help you can get at school is called SEN Provision.

#### **Example of SEN Provision (help)**

- Extra help with your subjects,i.e. Maths and/or English
- Working in a small group for certain subjects
- Homework club
- Dyslexia ruler
- Time out card
- A mentor or someone to talk to
- Learning support in class, e.g. a teaching assistant
- ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant)
- Larger fonts and coloured backgrounds
- Visual timetables and/or checklists
- Extra time in exams
- A quiet space to have lunch
- Therapies, such Speech and language or Occupational therapy

# WHAT CAN I DO IF I THINK OR I HAVE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS?

Speak to your form tutor (or a member of staff you get on with) and your parent/carer, so an appointment can be made to discuss this with the school's **SENCo** (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator).



The SENCo's role is to make sure that your needs are identified, letting school staff and your parent/carer know, what help you need.



# WHAT SHOULD YOUR SCHOOL DO NEXT?

After your meeting with the SENCo it may be agreed for the school to provide you with **SEN Support**.

This cycle is made up of **four stages: Assess, Plan, Do** and **Review** - which will hopefully make sure,

- Your needs are better understood
- You are provided with the right help so you can learn better and take part at school.



### THE SEN SUPPORT CYCLE:

The diagram on the right tells you what happens at each stage of the cycle.

You and you parents **must** be at the centre of this cycle-which means your **views**, **wishes and feelings must** be considered at each stage of this cycle.

This cycle can be for one term or go on longer.

During the Planning stage of the cycle, your parent/carer should be given a written record of the SEN Support (which would be good for you to see). The written record is sometimes called a SEN Support plan, IEP (Individual Education Plan) or Provision Map. This document should be reviewed with your parent/carer, and you, at least once a term.

#### 1. ASSESS

Your subject teachers with the SENCo **should** carry out an analysis of your needs. For example, looking at test results, your progress, observations of when you are in or outside of the classroom. This will help the school to understand your needs better and the support you may need.



#### 4. REVIEW

A review **should** take place with your parents and you to look at impact of the planned support and your progress in meeting the outcomes (what needs to be achieved).

During this review its important to say if you feel the help made a difference, it needs to continue, or change.

For example, do you need to continue attending Math's and English small groups because your scores have increased. Sometimes your school may decide that they need advice from a specialist to understand your needs more, for example, an educational psychologist or health professional. This will start another round of the cycle.

#### 2. PLAN

If it has been decided to provide you with SEN Support, your parent/carer **must** be informed if you are under 16. All teachers and support staff who work with you **should** be informed of your needs, outcomes (what needs to be achieved), the help to be provided including any teaching strategies.

A clear date for a meeting **should** be set to review the impact of the help provided and your progress.



The planned help to be provided and any teaching strategies then **should** be put in place.

Your teachers/subject tutors **should** work closely with any staff who are working with you in and outside of the class. The SENCo will provide advice and support to your teachers/subjects tutors if they need it.



## REQUESTING AN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

If you, your parent/carer, or school feel that you have not made enough progress or still struggling, despite the help provided during the SEN support cycles, a decision may be made by your school and your parent/carer's for an **EHC Needs Assessment to be requested**.

This request is made usually made, so your school can get extra

funding from the council, usually referred to as the **Local Authority (LA)** to give you more help or to continue with the help you are already getting.

For further information about this, please contact us.



#### **HOW WE CAN HELP:**

#### We can:

- Go through any questions you have about this cycle.
- Support you and your parent/carer to give your views during the cycle.
- Help you and your parent/carer to take part in meetings about your SEN and the help you need.
- Provide your options when your parent/carer or you are not in agreement with the help your school is providing.

#### **HOW TO CONTACT US:**

- By phone call or text our Children and Young People's officer on **07917 504 390**
- Call our office Helpline Number:020 8871 8065
- Email: wiass@wandsworth.gov.uk
- Visit: wiass.org.uk

We are Free, Confidential (private) and Objective (we will not tell you what to do or take sides)





