



Parent guide

What are Special Educational Needs and Disabilities?

Defining SEND

As described by the SEND Code of Practice, a student is considered to have special educational needs when they require support that is **different from and additional to** their peers. This means that the student:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

If my child is struggling with their learning, does this mean that they have a Special Educational Need?

No – but it is completely natural to want to support your child in the best way possible. However, a child that is finding certain parts of their learning challenging doesn't automatically mean they have Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND). Every student is unique and learns at their own pace. Some may need extra help or input in specific areas. This could simply be part of their individual learning journey.

It is important to remember that needing a little extra support from time to time is completely normal and doesn't mean there's anything wrong. It might be helpful to check in with your child's teachers – they can provide more specific feedback and suggest ways to support your child.

Many students go through phases where they need some extra help – what matters is that they're supported in a way that helps them succeed and feel confident.

However, if you do have concerns, don't hesitate to contact the school for guidance.

Where can I get further information if I am still concerned?

Information about the Local Offer (organisations locally can support you) can be found here:

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/schools-and-education/local-offer-send-and-ehc-plans>

A copy of our SEND Information Report which outlines the support available in school can be found on the school website: www.bishopstopford.com/page/?title=Special+Educational+Needs+and+Disabilities&pid=30

You might also find our parent guide helpful: *How can I support my child with learning?*



If you have concerns about your child's learning, please do contact their form tutor or head of year in the first instance, or contact our SEND team.