

Where to go for more information

Contact the school

If you have any questions about the support your child is receiving, or about SEN more generally, please speak to your child's class teacher, our SENCO Mrs H.Morris.

See our website

The school's SEN policy and information report set out more detailed information about the support available for children with SEN and disabilities.
You can access this information on our website.

External links

The government's SEND Code of Practice and a related guide for parents have more information about the topics outlined in this leaflet:
SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years, GOV.UK – DfE
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf

SEND: a guide for parents and carers, GOV.UK – DfE
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417435/Special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_guide_for_parents_and_carers.pdf

Glossary of terms

EHC plan - Education, Health and Care Plan
LDA - Learning Difficulty Assessment
SEN - Special Educational Needs
SENCO - SEN co-ordinator
SEND - SEN and Disability

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SEN support

What is SEN?

Some children find learning more challenging than others and may need extra support to achieve their full potential.

For example, they might have difficulty with:

Expressing themselves

- Interacting with others
- Reading, writing and maths
- Following lessons
- Controlling their emotions
- Sensory or physical mobility

These difficulties can be barriers to learning. Schools assess **all** children to identify their strengths and needs and how they can best be supported.

Children who need extra help with their learning may receive additional support under one of the following categories:

SEN support

An EHC plan

What is SEN support?

SEN support describes the additional help that assists children to access the curriculum.

This might include:

- Extra help in the classroom
- Small group or one-to-one learning
- Support from specialists such as speech and language therapists
- Schools must work with parents when agreeing what support to provide and what it will achieve.

The SEN support category replaces the previous categories of School Action and School Action Plus.

What are EHC plans?

If your child has more complex needs, he or she might already have a statement of SEN or be assessed for an EHC plan.

EHC plans have replaced statements of SEN, which were phased out by 31st March 2018.

FAQs

Does the new system mean my child will be getting less support?

No. The change from School Action and School Action Plus to SEN support is designed to remove labels, not reduce support.

The new system means schools can focus on children's individual learning and progress rather than classifications.

How will the school decide what type of support my child receives?

Every child's needs are different, and may change over time.

The school should assess each child's needs closely to identify which support suits him/her best.

The school should also regularly review the support your child receives to see what is working and what isn't, and incorporate your views on this too.

How do I know if my child needs SEN support?

If your child is not making expected progress for his/her year group, he/she may need SEN support. The school should discuss your child's needs with you before placing your child on SEN support.

What if I think my child needs further support?

Please speak to Mrs Morris (SENDCo) who may recommend carrying out an EHC needs assessment.

At Saint Thomas' C of E Academy we use a 'wave' system to determine the type of support best suited to each child:

