

Children's Services

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20 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

SEND Reforms: Update for Parents and Carers

We are writing to tell you about planned national changes to support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We have included a summary on the next page and some links to more detailed information.

We are working together

Schools, the council, health services and social care are working together to understand the new plans and what they may mean for families. The first step is to put actions in place to prepare for the future changes, this is known as our 'local SEND reform plan'. This plan will set out how we develop services and support around schools.

We want to make support better

In the future, the government wants:

- Children to get help earlier
- Support to be more consistent across the country
- Services to work together more effectively

Our priority is to ensure that every child and young person with SEND receives the support they need to be successful.

Your child's support stays the same for now

There are no immediate changes. If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), it will continue. Support in school will stay the same.

Families' voices matter

We are working with the Parent Carer Forum and with young people to make sure their experiences shape how we plan for the future.

These changes are still being developed by the government. We understand that you may have questions or concerns about what these changes will mean for your child and family. We will make any changes slowly and carefully. Supporting children, young people and families will always be our priority.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carolyn Fair'.

Carolyn Fair
on behalf of East Sussex County Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ms C Barlow'.

Ms C Barlow
Heathfield Community College

Additional Information: SEND Reforms

What are the key proposed changes?

- A stronger focus on early support in schools so children can get help more quickly
- A clearer, more consistent national approach to SEND support
- New Individual Support Plans (ISPs) for many children with SEND
- Continued support for children with the most complex needs through EHCPs
- Greater joint working between education, health and care services

These are proposals. The law has not yet changed, and existing rights remain in place.

What is the timeline?

- The government is currently consulting on the proposals
- Any changes will take time and may require legislation
- Implementation will be gradual over several years
- No changes to EHCP support are expected before at least September 2030

What will this mean for my child?

- Right now, nothing changes – current support remains in place
- In future, more children may receive support earlier through school
- Children with more complex needs will continue to receive specialist support
- Families will remain involved in planning and reviewing support

The aim is to make support more consistent, inclusive and easier to access, while improving outcomes for children and young people.

Further reading

[SEND reform: putting children and young people first - GOV.UK](#)

[What parents of children and young people with SEND need to know](#)

[SEND reform: putting children and young people first - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)