

Moving from five to three stages of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice

**Guidance for parents and guardians of pupils who are currently on the SEN register*

The SEN Code of Practice is an important guidance document that all schools must follow when making decisions about identifying, assessing and making provision for children who have SEN. Currently, all children with SEN are recorded on the school's SEN register under one of five stages according to the level of support which they need to help them make progress in school. The new Code, when published by the Department of Education, will have three stages for schools to record children on the SEN register.

Why are we moving from five stages to three?

The new three stages are easier for parents, schools and everyone involved in helping to support children with SEN to understand and use. They help to streamline the SEN process and they focus specifically on the different levels of provision that can be made to help children with SEN.

When will the change from five to three stages happen?

Over the next few months, schools will look at their SEN registers and move each child across from the five stage model to the three stage model. All children will be recorded under the new three stages by October 2021.

What will the new three stages look like?

The new three stages focus on levels of provision for pupils who have SEN:

- **Stage One:** Pupils who are recorded as new Stage One will be receiving **school delivered** special educational provision.
- **Stage Two:** Pupils who are recorded as new Stage Two will be receiving **school delivered special educational provision plus external provision**, e.g. from one of the Education Authority (EA) Pupil Support Services or from a service within the Health and Social Care Trust. Pupils who are going through the **statutory assessment process** will be recorded as Stage Two also.
- **Stage Three:** Pupils who are recorded as new Stage Three will have a **statement** of Special Educational Needs and will be receiving school and EA delivered special educational provision as detailed in their statement.

Will my child be affected by the move from five to three stages?

Your child will **NOT** be affected by the change. The move from five to three stages is simply a clearer and more user-friendly way of recording the level of provision that pupils with SEN need to help them make progress.

The provision currently being made for your child will NOT change as a result of SEN registers moving to the three stage model.

**With effect from: April 2021-October 2021*

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