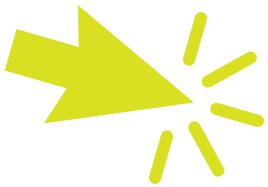


SEN Information for Families

We know that waiting for news about your child's school place can be a worrying and uncertain time for families.

These frequently asked questions are designed to help families understand the SEN placement process and know what to expect.

Whether your child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs or is currently undergoing statutory assessment, you will find guidance below on what steps to take and how EA can help.



[Click here to see a full list of FAQs to support parents and carers of children with SEN](#)



My child has a statement of SEN, when will I find out about their school place?

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs do not apply through the normal admissions process.

The Education Authority will look at your child's needs and your school preferences to find the right support. Where schools can meet your child's needs, EA will make contact with them to agree a place.

Once a place is agreed, you will receive an updated Statement showing the school's name. Families are contacted individually, so there is no single set notification date.



My child has not yet received a Statement of Special Educational Needs and is undergoing statutory assessment, should I accept the place offered under General Admissions?

Yes. If a Statement of Special Education Needs is not confirmed – e.g. if your child's Statutory Assessment is still being processed or if you have only received a proposed statement, you should still accept the school placement offered to you via the General Admissions process.

If I accept the General Admissions place, will my child still be able to get the help they need?

Yes, if your child's Statutory Assessment is still being processed, you should accept the school placement offered to you via the General Admissions process. This will not affect the help your child gets in the future.

As your child's assessment continues, your SEN Link Officer will be available to discuss your options and answer any questions you may have. For requests or referrals made on EA Connect after 12th January, parents can access a visual timeline [via the portal](#), which will provide live status updates on the progress of their child's request or referral.

I have been offered a school place through General Admissions, but I think that my child needs a Special School or Specialist Provision place. What should I do?

If your child's Statutory Assessment is still being processed, you should accept the school placement offered to you via the General Admissions process.

The right school place for your child will be discussed as part of the Statutory Assessment process.

If a Specialist Provision or Special School is right for your child, this will be outlined in the proposed statement and your SEN Link Officer will be able to discuss this with you before their statement is finalised if required.

The Educational Psychologist may have already talked to you about this during their assessment.

As your child's assessment continues, your SEN Link Officer will be available to answer any questions you may have or to discuss your options.

We also have lots of helpful information on the different types of schools and support available on our dedicated SEND website: [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\)](#).

I have heard about children waiting for or not getting school places, should I be worried?

Every year, EA finds school places for thousands of children with Statements. Each child is considered individually, based on their needs.

Finding the right school can take longer because we must be sure it can properly support your child. We understand this can be worrying, but your SEN Link Officer will keep you informed and explain any delays.

EA continues to work with schools across Northern Ireland to increase specialist support and ensure children are placed as close to home as possible.

