

The Bromley

AREA WIDE OFFER

for children and young adults with special educational needs and disabilities



What is the Area Wide Offer?

The London Borough of Bromley's Area Wide Offer is a statement which sets out what is expected of educational settings in relation to what they provide from within their budgets, as well as setting out what you can do if the area wide offer is not being delivered or not meeting a child/young person's needs.

It sets out what could reasonably be expected to be available in all mainstream settings to meet the needs of children and young people.

Introduction

The Children and Families Act 2014, supported by the funding reforms, has introduced a single pre-statutory stage for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities called 'SEN Support'. This is relevant at all age levels - find out more at www.bromley.gov.uk/localoffer.

As a result, new funding arrangements mean that there is greater capacity for settings to respond and support the additional learning needs for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, or **SEND** for short.

All schools will have pupils who experience barriers to learning at some stage of their time in school or college. A number will have significant health, care or other additional needs which require a level of support for their learning. The funding which is available to schools ensures that, for almost all pupils, their needs will be met from a range of interventions from within school resources with advice from other practitioners when needed.

The Council, schools, governing bodies and colleges each have responsibilities to ensure that they plan on the basis that, at all times, some individuals and groups of children and young people will be experiencing difficulties with learning. This guidance looks at two strands of support:

1. whole school/college - systemic measures the school/college uses to ensure learning for all children and young people who have SEND
2. targeted support which may be short or longer term to support the learning needs of individuals and small groups

The expectations described are a key part of the larger local offer for learning.

What the Area Wide Offer aims achieve

In producing the Area Wide Offer for Bromley, the Council is working to ensure that all schools in the borough:

- provide suitable provision to all their students with SEND
- have adequate capacity to effectively meet the needs of children and young people with SEND
- demonstrate improved rates of progress for all children and young people who have SEND
- develop their services to ensure greater participation amongst children and young people with SEND

What we expect educational settings to offer

The Council expects head teachers, governors and proprietors to carry out the legal duties in the SEND Code of Practice 2015:



Please note:

- *where the word school is used this also includes other educational settings*
- *the word pupil is used for children and young people*

Local Authorities are required to:

- ensure sufficiency of provision for pupils with SEND and keep this provision under constant review
- involve children, their parents and young people, and schools in discussions and decisions about pupil individual support and local provision
- make arrangements for the statutory assessment of pupils and maintain and review statements of SEND and Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans
- provide information, advice and support on the take-up and management of Personal Budgets
- in discussion with schools publish information on SEND funding and provision
- monitor the progress of children with statements and EHC plans and take appropriate action as required
- provide information, support, advice and guidance to schools, parents and children/ young people with SEND, including the local offer

Schools must:

- meet their duties under the Equality Act 2010 for pupils with disabilities
- take such steps as are reasonable to meet the needs of pupils with SEND and additional needs
- use their 'best endeavours' to meet pupils' SEND - this means having regard to the SEND Code of Practice 2015
- inform parents when pupils receive support for special educational needs and involve them in reviews of progress

- for new pupil placements proposed by the Local Authority as part of the EHC plan process, confirm whether they are able to offer a place to the pupil; if a school is unable to offer a place, the school must provide evidence to support this decision. This includes if the school is unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or Special Educational Needs of the child or young person, or; the attendance of the child at the named school or setting would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education for others or efficient use of resources
- co-operate with the local authority in developing the local offer
- have regard to the new SEND Code of Practice 2015
- produce and publish online a School SEND Information Report (post 16 settings do not need to produce this report, however, it would be regarded as good practice)
- appoint a suitably qualified or experienced member of staff as SENCO as prescribed under the Education (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators) Regulations 2008. In post 16 settings they should have a named person responsible for SEND
- make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions - schools must have regard to statutory guidance supporting pupils at school with medical conditions
- schools should have good quality Continuing Professional Development relating to SEND in place and engage with SENCO networks operated by the Council which are free and open to all schools throughout the borough.

Governors:

- should cooperate with the Council
- should have a member or a sub-committee with specific oversight of the school's arrangements for SEND
- must publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children and a disability accessibility plan
- must ensure the SENCO is a qualified teacher who is on the senior leadership team or has a direct link to the leadership team
- should determine and monitor the key responsibilities of the SENCO
- must include any SEND information report on the school website
- must inform parents and young people if the child or young person is receiving special educational provision and is on the SEND register
- must use their 'best endeavours' to ensure that special educational provision is made for a pupil
- must admit a child or young person to their school where they are named in the finalised EHC Plan
- must ensure that arrangements are in place to support pupils at school with medical conditions

The Head Teacher:

- should take overall responsibility for implementing the SEND reforms
 - ensure that the SENCO is able to influence strategic decisions about SEND
 - ensure the wider school community understands the implications of the reforms for whole school improvement (from governors to classroom teachers and teaching assistants)
 - put in place arrangements to ensure parents are regularly engaged in discussions about the progress of their child (at least three times a year)
 - ensure a process is in place for involving parents and young people in reviewing provision and planning for those currently receiving SEND support and any newly identified pupils with SEND
 - develop relationships with post-16 providers and explore how they will support pupils with SEND with their transition to post-16 education
- link with other education settings and outside agencies
 - support pupil's transition to the next phase of education, for instance when children move to secondary school
 - work with head and governors on duties relating to requirements of the Equality Act
 - ensure that SEND records are up to date.

Core Standards for all pupils and students in our schools and colleges

It is the responsibility of all schools/colleges to provide quality first teaching and appropriate support for all pupils and students. All children and young people are entitled to an education that enables them to make progress so that they:

- achieve their best
- become confident individuals living fulfilling lives
- make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training

SENCOs should:

- oversee the day-to-day operation of school's SEND policy
- coordinate provision for children with SEND
- liaise with the designated teacher where a Child Looked After has SEND
- advise on the graduated approach to SEND Support, this is called the assess, plan, do, review cycle
- advise on the use of the delegated SEND budget/other resources
- liaise with parents of children with SEND or disability

SEND Funding

Local authorities must make sure that the budget shares of schools and academies have an appropriate amount that enables them to contribute to the costs of the whole school's additional SEND support arrangements, up to the mandatory cost threshold of £6,000 per pupil with SEND. This is a notional amount of funding, and should not be regarded by schools and academies as a substitute for their own budget planning and decisions about how much

they need to spend on SEND support, or as a fixed budget sum for spending by schools.

Schools should use their notional SEND budget to fund up to £6,000 worth of special educational provision for a pupil with SEND. Not all pupils with SEND require special educational provision up to the amount of £6,000. If a pupil has needs that require support in excess of this delegated budget then schools and parents can apply for a statutory assessment of the pupils needs. After assessing the needs of the pupil concerned, demonstrating what is already in place, its impact and how the additional funding will be used to enable progress, the local authority will provide further funding if it is required.

There is also a range of financial support available in post-16 education to support individual students subject to criteria. Examples of these are bursaries, vulnerable students and hardship funds. Each provider will have details of what is available and which students can access the funding.

Further information about the Council's funding available to meet the specific needs and difficulties of a child can be found in the Banded Funding Guide for Mainstream Schools and the Banded Guide for Special Schools. These can be downloaded at www.bromley.gov.uk/localoffer.

What to do if the Area Wide Offer is not being delivered

It is the responsibility of the leadership of the learning setting, including governors, head teacher or principal, to ensure that the setting is contributing to the Area Wide Offer.

The SENCO or named person will work with the leadership of the setting to oversee the

planning and delivery of the setting's SEN Information Regulations as contribution to the Area Wide Offer.

If a parent/carer or young person is concerned the setting is not co-operating or providing the appropriate provision as part of their contribution to the Area Wide Offer then they must talk to the relevant member of staff in the setting (ideally the class/subject teacher or SENCO or Head Teacher) to resolve the issue before making a formal complaint.

If a parent/carer or young person is still dissatisfied they should ask the setting to provide the complaints policy and act on this guidance. It would be good practice for settings to publish their complaints policy on their website and to provide a paper copy on request. The complaints policy will lay out how the setting will resolve the matter. Complaints may be made in person, by telephone or in writing to the head teacher.

If after writing to the head teacher, the parent/carer or young person is still not happy with the way the complaint has been dealt with, then the parent/carer or young person would need to formally write to the Governing Body which has responsibility to address the complaint.

The setting will be able to provide the contact details of the Governing Body.

Appeals and Complaints

If you would like to make a complaint about a school or childminder, you can find general information about this on the GOV.UK website - visit www.gov.uk/complain-about-school.

FURTHER CONTACTS



Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS)

Formerly the Parent Partnership Service

Website:

www.bromley.gov.uk/iass

Email: iass@bromley.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8461 7630



Mediation

Bromley Mediation and Disagreement Resolution

Website:

www.globalmediation.co.uk/our-services/education/special-education-needs

Email: sen@globalmediation.co.uk

Tel: 0800 0644 488



Bromley Parent Voice (BPV)

Website:

www.bromleyparentvoice.org.uk

Email:

info@bromleyparentvoice.org.uk

Telephone or Text: 07803 287838



SEN and Disability Tribunal

(The Special Education Needs and Disability Tribunal)

Website: www.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-disability-tribunal

Email:

sendistqueries@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 01325 289350

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