

A brief guide to SEN funding in Southampton

Delegated SEN funding

Every mainstream school in the city receives its own delegated SEN budget as part of its annual funding. The amount is different for every school and is based on the prior attainment of the pupils in the school (80%) and how many live in deprived areas of the city (20%). It is not affected by the number of pupils identified by the school as having SEN. Schools should use this funding as well as some of their overall pupil-led funding to meet the needs of pupils with SEN.

Funding for pupils with Statements of SEN

For funding purposes, there are two types of statement:

1. High-incidence statements: for those special needs that schools are generally experienced in meeting such as emotional, social and behavioural difficulties and learning difficulties. These statements are funded via the school's delegated SEN budget.
2. Low-incidence statements: for long term, severe and complex needs experienced by very few pupils, including severe autism, language and communication disorders, severe learning difficulties and severe sensory impairment. Schools pay for the first five hours of additional support from their SEN budget and the local authority funds the remainder.

The city's SEN Panel decides how much support should be specified on a statement and whether it is high- or low- incidence. In some cases, the panel can also agree some one-off transitional funding to help support a change of placement. Low-incidence funding will stop on the day that the child leaves the school, which may be during the school year or in July of their final year.

Special schools and resourced provision

All special schools and mainstream resourced provision are funded on the basis of their number of places, rather than the number of pupils on roll at any particular time. For special schools, the amount per-place varies depending on the severity and complexity of the range of pupils at the school.

Pupils from other local authorities

Schools are not affected by whether pupils with SEN live in other local authorities such as Hampshire. They will receive funding in the same way, through their SEN delegated budget plus extra amounts for pupils with low incidence statements. At the end of the year, the two local authorities will balance the charges for each other's pupils.

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