



Somerset Parent Partnership Service

**A free impartial service for all parents and carers of children
with Special Education Needs**

**Support Services for
Special Education Needs (SEN)**

A Guide for Parents and Carers





The purpose of this leaflet is to help you understand what services are available to schools to help them meet your child's special educational needs.

This booklet will tell you; -

- **Who they are**
- **What they do**
- **How to get further information**

What are the SEN Support Services?

The Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support Services are provided by the Local Authority, as a service for 0-19 year olds and their families, through early years settings and schools.

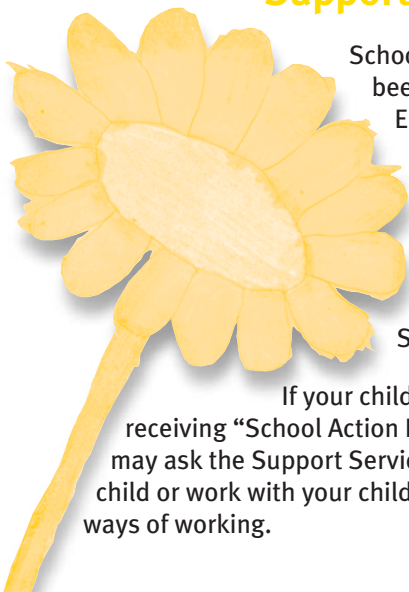
Schools do not have unlimited access to these services. Schools and support services will agree which pupils have the greatest need of additional support from outside the school.

If a school intends to talk about your child's difficulties with one or more of the support services they may do via the consultation meeting or directly in the case of hearing, vision, physical or medical difficulty. In each case the school should ask your permission to do this.

Consultation Meetings are held once or twice a year. Representatives from the Services will be present along with the SENCO (school Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) and sometimes a member of the EA (Educational Attendance) Team or someone from Health such as Speech and Language Therapists.

At this meeting things to do with meeting special needs in the school as a whole are discussed as well as individual children. Parents should know their child is being discussed but it is not a meeting they can attend because so much else is also discussed which is not to do with their child.

When will a school ask for help from the SEN Support Services?



Schools may ask for advice when your child has been identified as having SEN (Special Educational Needs) and is receiving support from the school at "School Action".

The services will give them ideas about how best to help your child but will not normally become directly involved.

In some cases members of the Support Services will also work directly with your child.

If your child has a statement of SEN or the school is receiving "School Action Plus" money to help your child, the school may ask the Support Services to become directly involved with your child or work with your child and school staff so that they can learn new ways of working.



Educational Psychology

This service works with schools to support pupils in partnership with their families and others directly involved. Every school has a link Psychologist who helps schools to support learning, development and well-being.

They become involved when a school and the other Support Services need more advice or the Local Authority has agreed to undertake a formal Statutory Assessment.

The service also supports schools where a traumatic incident occurs which affects the running of the school.

The service is engaged by schools via the consultation meetings.

The level of support offered is linked to the level of need.

Learning Support

If your child has been identified as having, or you or your child's school believe that your child may have any of the following your child's school will be able to get support and advice from one of a team of specialist teachers:

- Specific Learning Difficulties such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia
- General learning difficulties.

Your child's school can get advice, support and training related to the needs of your child from the specialist Advisory Teacher, who will advise the school on how best to help your child to be successful at school.

Referrals to the services are made by schools via the consultation meetings.

Autism and Communication

This service is made up of a Specific Language Impairment Team and Autism Team. Both teams offer specialist advice, support and training relating to children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families. The service includes specialist resource bases across the county.

Support is provided by working in partnership with parents, schools and other services, with an emphasis being on problem solving and action planning to prevent difficulties in the early stages.

The Autism and Communication Service is a multi-professional team, comprising of advisory teachers with specialist knowledge of ASD, Occupational Therapists (OTs) and dedicated specialist Educational Psychologist (EP) time.

Physical Impairment and Medical Support

This team offers specialist advice, support and training related to the needs of your child if he/she has a Physical Impairment or specific Medical need. They will work in partnership with you, your child's school and any other professionals involved with your child from voluntary organisations or Health and Social Services.

The team also offers Information and Communication Technology (ICT) advice for those pupils with the most complex needs.

Your child's school has a named contact to whom referrals can be made with your consent.



Hearing Support

The Hearing Support Team is a specialist intervention team working with schools, families, pre-school practitioners, voluntary organisations and other services.

They work with children and families: in the home, early years or school settings, offering a range of advisory and support services with a focus on partnership and early intervention.

The Team provides staffing for the specialist hearing resource bases located in mainstream schools across the county, including teaching, support, advice and training, tailored to the need of each child and situation. This means there is a priority given to early intervention, access to the curriculum and the development of language and literacy.

Vision Support Service

The Somerset Vision Support Team works with children in the home, early years setting and school. They liaise with wide range of professionals: from ophthalmologists, health visitors and paediatricians to teachers, nursery nurses and therapists.

Your child's school has a named member of the team to contact and requests for support can be made from mainstream and special schools or parents can contact them directly at the Mendip base (contact details at the back of the leaflet).



Further information

The SENCO in your child's school or early years' setting will be able to give you information. You can find information about Special Educational Needs and the Support Services on the Educational and Individual Services website at www.six.somerset.gov.uk.

The Somerset Parent Partnership Service produces a number of parent information booklets, which can be accessed through their web site www.somersetparentpartnership.org.uk or from the address at the end of this leaflet.

You can get more information from the teams at the four bases on the following page.

SEDGEMOOR AREA:

Chandos House
6 Castle Street
Bridgwater
TA6 3DB
Tel: (01278) 446445
Fax: (01278) 446199
E-mail: chandoshouse@somerset.gov.uk

MENDIP AREA:

2nd Floor
Priory Medical Centre
Glastonbury Road
Wells
BA5 1XJ
Tel: (01749) 678500
Fax: (01749) 678501
E-mail: mendipEIS@somerset.gov.uk

SOUTH SOMERSET AREA:

Buckland House
8 Buckland Road
Yeovil
BA21 5EA
Tel: (01935) 476130
Fax: (01935) 382039
E-mail: buckland@somerset.gov.uk

TAUNTON AND WEST SOMERSET AREA:

The Holway Centre
Keats Road
Taunton
TA1 2JB
Tel: (01823) 334475
Fax: (01823) 323656
E-mail: holwayaen@somerset.gov.uk



Working together for equalities.

This leaflet is available in large print on the Parent Partnership web site:

somerseparentpartnership.org.uk

This document is also available in Braille, large print, on tape and on disc and we can translate it into different languages.

We can provide a member of staff to discuss the details.

Portuguse

Estes documentos também se encontram disponíveis em Braille, letras grandes, fita ou disco e podem ser traduzidos para Português.

Polish

Ten dokument jest także dostępny w wersji Braille'a, pisany dużym drukiem, na kasecie lub dysku kompaktowym i może być przetłumaczony na język polski.

Children's Information Service - Somerset Direct 0845 3459122

If you need any further help or information please contact:

Somerset Parent Partnership Service
Children & Young People's Directorate,
County Hall, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4DY

Tel: 01823 355578

Email: enquiries@somerseparentpartnership.org.uk

Website: www.somerseparentpartnership.org.uk



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