

This leaflet describes how funding is allocated by the Local Authority to enable them to meet the needs of children with special educational needs in their school.

## What funds do schools have for meeting children's needs?

Barnet, along with many other LAs and in line with government guidance, delegates special needs funding to schools. Funding is allocated by a locally agreed formula which is designed to reflect the school's circumstances and those of the children in it. This means that the Headteacher and Governors decide how best to spend the money in order to meet the needs of all pupils in the school.



## Mainstream schools

There are four ways in which mainstream schools are allocated funding for special needs. All of them are important in ensuring a whole school approach to meeting the needs of all pupils:

### 1 Age Weighted Pupil Unit Allocations (AWPU)

This funding is based on pupil numbers and the majority of funding will come from this source. Part of the AWPU is for the provision of special needs including the employment of and sufficient support for the SENCO.

### 2 Additional Educational Needs

This funding is allocated to schools to support all children with additional needs and to provide some of the money for children with statements. The money is allocated to schools using a formula based on pupil prior attainment, social deprivation (free school meals), mobility and numbers of pupils with English as an additional language. This funding pays for staffing costs to support pupils, resources and equipment, training and specific projects within school.

### 3 Statements of Special Educational Need

Schools or parents can apply for a Statement of Special Educational Needs when they feel that a child's needs are severe and greater than can be met by the school's normal resources. The Statement identifies the child's needs and the support it should receive. The LA provides additional money based on the classroom support required beyond the first 10 hours per week. The criteria for statutory assessment are available from the LA.

### 4 Contingency Funding

The funding formula is designed to meet all schools' needs. For exceptional and unforeseen circumstances a very small contingency budget is held within the LA. Further funding can be allocated from this on an individual pupil basis. This is primarily for pupils who are newcomers or for whom an emergency has arisen and their needs have changed dramatically. A panel of Headteachers meets twice a year and makes decisions about bids from schools for a payment from the special needs contingency.

## Resourced schools

Resourced schools are mainstream schools which also provide specialist support to children with particular needs such as hearing impairment or speech and language difficulties. In addition to the funding streams above, resourced schools receive money for the number of agreed resourced places based on the level of teaching and in class support appropriate to the needs of the children.

## Special schools

Special schools receive formula funding based on the level of teaching, in class support and resources appropriate to the age and complexity of need the children admitted to the school.



## Please contact us

- T** 020 8359 7694  
020 8359 7637  
020 8359 7714  
020 8359 7272
- E** [parent.partnership@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:parent.partnership@barnet.gov.uk)
- Parent Partnership Barnet  
Education Service  
Building 4  
North London Business Park  
Oakleigh Road South  
London N11 1NP

# Funding arrangements for Special Educational Needs between the Local Authority and schools



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Partnership  
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