



SEND Reform Plan



**Bromley Parent
Carer Forum**



South East London



An Overview of the Schools White Paper and SEND Reform Consultation

- The Schools White Paper (SWP) is called [Every Child Achieving and Thriving](#)
- The Schools White Paper sets out what the Government *will* do.
- The only aspects of the SWP being consulted on relate to SEND reform (pages 47-59)
- [SEND Reform: Putting Children and Young People First](#) is a consultation document. It gives more details about proposed changes to SEND with consultation questions about specific aspects of proposed SEND reforms.
- Not *all* aspects of SEND reform are being consulted on.
- Where you read a 'we will' statement in either document this indicates that consultation is not being invited.
- Where you read a 'we propose' or 'we want' statement this indicates that views are being sought on if/how to progress a proposal, either in this consultation or in the future
- The online consultation closed at **11.59pm on Monday 18th May 2026**
- The consultation report has not yet been published.
- DfE have provided guidance to Local Authorities and wider partners.





Key Themes of SEND Reform

- **Most children with SEND will be educated in a local, inclusive mainstream school**
Inclusion Bases providing targeted support and some Specialist Bases for complex needs
- **Layered support for children and young people with SEND**
Universal, Targeted, Targeted Plus and Specialist (EHCP) layers and Individual Support Plans (ISPs) for all children and young people with identified SEND (including those with an EHCP)
- **EHCPs retained with transition to new system from 2029**
National eligibility thresholds and nationally defined Specialist Provision Packages for EHCPs
- **Accountability at system or cohort level for children without an EHCP**
 - ❑ Tribunal retained for EHCP appeals (with changes to Tribunal powers),
 - ❑ OFSTED and Schools Complaints for quality assurance/dispute resolution regarding ISPs
 - ❑ Reasonable adjustments dispute resolution at Tribunal or County Court
- **Funding**
£12 Billion pledged including £4.5bn to clear 90% of LA SEND deficits.
Rebalancing of funding - more high needs funding goes directly to mainstream settings

The Timeline for Reform

“From now until new legislation begins, the current SEND system – including all existing duties, rights and funding routes – will remain in place, and we will ensure these duties continue to be met.”

Page 72 SEND Reform: Putting Children and Young People First

“No child or young person will leave a special school or college placement as a result of these changes, unless they choose to do so.”

Page 72 SEND Reform: Putting Children and Young People First

- Some improvements are already underway (e.g. £31 million investment to train 600 new Educational Psychologists, 10,000 new specialist placements, SEND training for teaching staff)
- Local Authorities to submit SEND Reform Plans by **19th June 2026**
- Three years for Education, Health and Local Authorities to prepare for reform
- Primary legislation and statutory guidance expected in **September 2029**
- Changes to EHCPs taking effect from **September 2030**

The Timeline for Reform

**Feb 23rd -
June 19th
2026**

SEND Reform
Consultation
(until 18th May)

LA SEND
Reform Plans
(submitted by
June 19th)

June 2026 - Sept 2029

Priming the system for reform:

- Extra funding
- Workforce and specialist placement capacity building
- Training
- Development of national standards and guidance
- Consultation on updated SEND Code of Practice

Sept 2029

New
legislation
and statutory
guidance

Reassessment
of EHCPs
begin at
phase transfer
points

Sept 2030

CYP start
moving to new
system with a
Specialist
Provision
Package(s) and
/or Individual
Support Plan

London Region



National Network of Parent Carer Forums
'Our Strength is our Shared Experience'
www.nnpkf.org.uk

Principals of SEND Reform

1. Early.

Children and families should receive the support they need as soon as possible, with a quick response to changing needs. This will start to break the cycle of needs going unmet and getting worse. Instead, we will intervene swiftly and proactively, focusing on providing support earlier in children's lives when this can have the greatest impact.

2. Local.

Children and young people with SEND should be able to learn at an education setting close to their home, alongside their peers, rather than travelling long distances from their family and community. Specialist settings should continue to play a vital role supporting those with the most complex needs.

3. Fair.

Every education setting should be resourced and able to meet common and predictable needs, including as they change over time, without parents having to fight to get support for their children. Where specialist provision is needed for children and young people, we will ensure it is there, whether that be a mainstream, specialist or Alternative Provision setting, with clear legal requirements and safeguards for children and parents.

4. Effective.

Reforms should be grounded in evidence, ensuring all education settings know where to go to find effective practice that has excellent long-term outcomes for children and young people.

5. Shared.

Education, health and care services should work in partnership with one another, Best Start Family Hubs, local government, families, teachers, educators, experts, the voluntary sector and representative bodies to deliver better experiences and outcomes for all our children and young people. The voices of children should be at the heart of decision making.



In February, all LAs had sight of Government's SEND Reforms proposals, with expectation we would set out local delivery via SEND Reform planning (structured template) from March.

Caveats:

- Limited time to meaningfully co-produce Plan – submission 19th June
- Some key policies and guidance still missing e.g. – National Inclusion Standards
- Dual focus on improving SEND outcomes and reducing costs on statutory processes
- Multiple checks, minimum standards, areas to cover to meet compliance threshold
- 3 month wait for feedback (mid-Sept), 5 tier sign-off via DfE
- Plan accompanied by robust data submission and quarterly reporting.

How have we approached this in Bromley?

Strategic SEND Reform Group

- Multi-partner group, weekly meetings to input and shape Bromley's Reform Plan
- Including representatives from LBB, NHS ICB, Schools (Primary, Secondary, Special), Alternative Provision, Early Years, FE, and Parent/Carer voice (Parent Carer Forum).
- As much co-production with local partnership as possible, limited by time.

Stakeholder	Engagement session
Meeting/Group	Date
Champions for Change	29th April 2026
SEND Matters – Parent Carers	15th May 2026
SEND Reforms Briefing - Health	6th May 2026
School Leaders	4th June 2026
Post 16 Providers	4th June 2026
Early Years Providers	10th June 2026

What priorities did we identify?

Utilising DfE 'Building blocks'

- Strengthening inclusion across education settings
- System leadership, local partnership collaboration and co-production
- Access to specialist support and local placements
- Encouraging inclusive culture and behaviours to drive sustainability and shared accountabilities.

Retaining Bromley's local priorities

- Strong local Governance, joint commissioning and collaboration
- Co-production with partners, incl. parents and cyp
- Post 16 and Preparation for Adulthood
- Recognition that Bromley still needs the additional satellite special school places at Rivermead





How will we deliver this for Bromley?

Priorities for Year 1

- Map our need across the borough, to target resource and ensure a consistent offer
- Commence recruitment of 'experts at hand' – SALTS, OTs, EPs
- Co-produce a Bromley Inclusion and Belonging framework
- Strengthen co-production, communication and shared accountability to build confidence in the system
- Improve equitable access to early specialist advice and outreach, including special school outreach
- Developing a confident, skilled workforce in mainstream
- Quarterly reporting of activity, success measures and financial spend – noting EHCP numbers and spend will continue to rise over next 3 years.



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What Happens Next?

Bromley Parent Carer Forum and Your Voice Health and Social Care will continue to represent parent carers on the SEND Reform Group.

As we begin implementing these changes, we will keep families updated through the [Bromley SEND Local Offer](#) website, the Bromley SEND Local Offer [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) channels, and the SEND Matters Newsletter. To receive the newsletter, email SENDMatters@bromley.gov.uk.

These channels will provide information on progress, opportunities for feedback and evidence of how the voices of children, young people and families continue to shape the reform programme.

If you would like to get involved, please visit [Bromley Parent Carer Forum](#) or [Your Voice in Health and Social Care](#).