



Department
for Education



Easy
Read

SEND futures

**A report about what parents
think of how schools help
children with Special
Educational Needs and
Disabilities**



Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



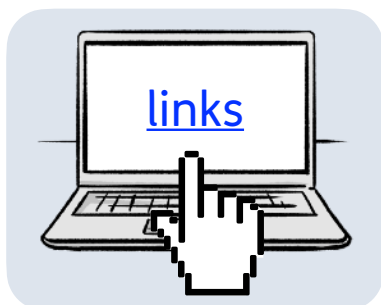
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

What is in this booklet

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About this report



Department
for Education

The Department for Education asked young people with **SEND** and their parents or carers about school and their lives.

SEND stands for **S**pecial **E**ducational **N**eeds and **D**isabilities. Young people with SEND need some extra support to learn and grow.



This report tells you what the parents and carers said about support in schools.

About the Department for Education



The Department for Education is part of the government.

Our job is to:



- Help decide what young people should learn about.



- Make sure schools are good places to learn.



- Think about how to make education better for everyone.

What we want to know more about



We wanted to know about what extra support that young people with SEND get in school to help them learn.



We were interested to know what parents or carers think about this support.



This report is about what parents or carers told us.

What we did



We shared a **survey** to find out about the education and lives of young people with SEND.

A **survey** is a set of questions for people to answer.



We asked about young people who were in Year 9 at school in 2022 to 2023. These young people were aged 13 to 14.



Nearly 2000 young people with SEND answered our questions.



We asked their parents and carers, and more than 2300 answered our questions.



We shared the survey between April and September 2023.



We asked some people to do the survey online and some to do it on the phone.



We visited some people at home to do the survey face to face.

What we wanted to know

We wanted to know what parents or carers think about support in schools, so we asked them how well they think the school:



- Supports their child in areas where they need extra help.



- Understands their child's SEND.



- Supports their child to do the activities they are interested in and enjoy.

We also asked them how well they think the school:



- Supports their child to learn to talk to people.



- Supports their child to feel good about themselves.



- Supports their child with their mental health and wellbeing.

What we found out

Most parents and carers said:



- The school supports their child well when they need extra help.



- The school understands their child's SEND well.



However, some parents and carers felt the school did not support their child well.



And some said that the school does not support their child to do the activities they are interested in and enjoy.

Good comments about the support given in schools were most likely to be made by parents or carers of young people who:

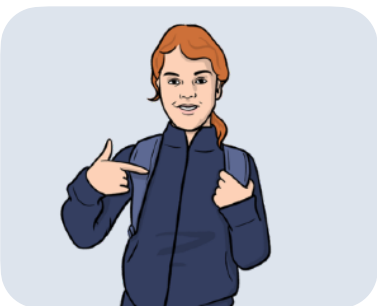


- Go to a special school.



- Had an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**.

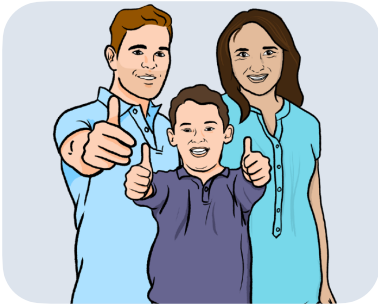
An **Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** is an official document that agrees what support a child or young person needs, and what services they should get.



- Found out about their SEND early in their lives.



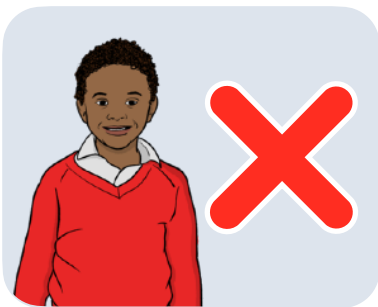
- Have more serious learning difficulties, or more than one type of need.



The comments from parents or carers whose children go to special schools were much more positive than those whose children go to mainstream schools.



Half of parents or carers whose child goes to a mainstream school said their child was supported.



The other half said their child was not supported well.

What happens next



We know there is more to do to help parents feel confident about the support schools give their children.



We will think about this information to help us decide how to help children and young people with SEND in mainstream and special schools.

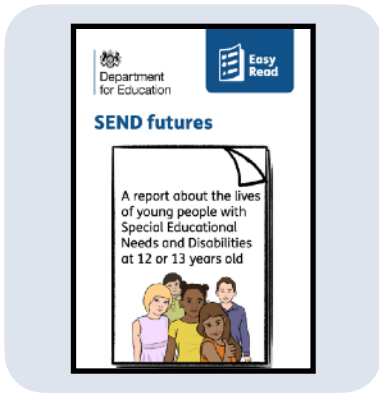
The report asks some questions that we might look into more in the future. For example:



- Can we learn how good the support young people get at school is from listening to their parents' comments?



- What do young people think about the support they get at school?



You can find out what we learned in the report we did last year here:

[A report about the lives of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities at 12 or 13 years old \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Find out more



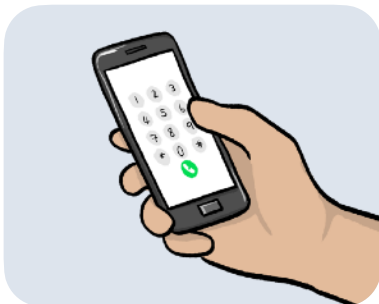
You can look at our website here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-futures-longitudinal-study-discovery-phase

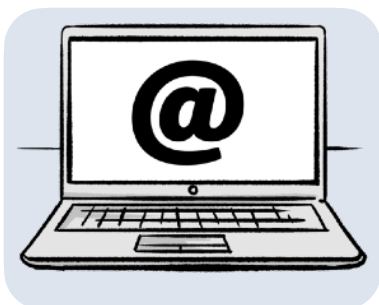
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