

# Demystifying SEND Funding

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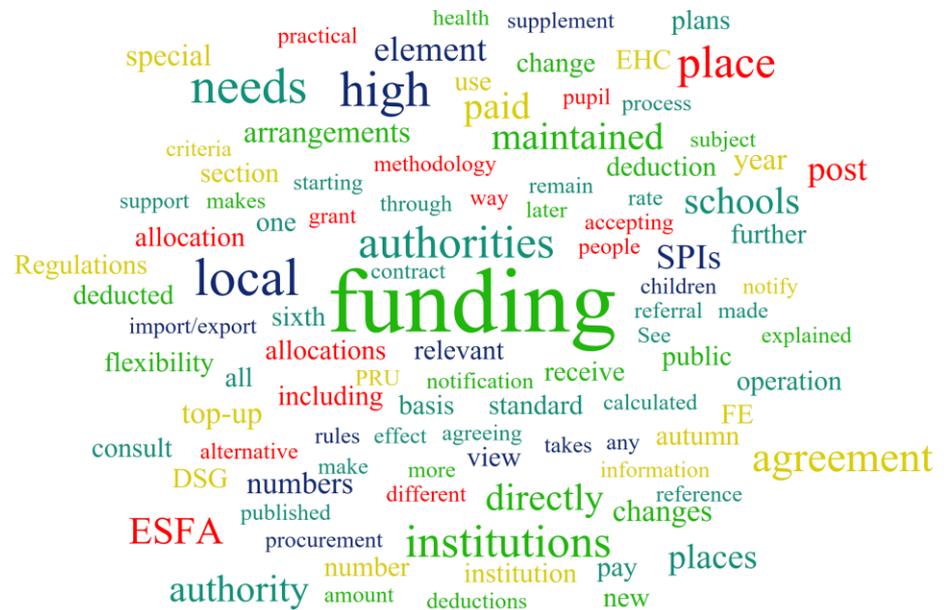


Department  
for Education



# SEND funding?

Funding for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities (SEND) funding can appear daunting, but we are here to guide you through.



# How does funding for SEN work?

- Primary and secondary schools get money as part of their overall funding, which includes a notional amount to pay for the extra support needed by children and young people with SEN and who are disabled, up to £6,000 per annum.
- This notional SEN budget is calculated locally on factors such as the number of pupils with low attainment in the previous school or phase. This can be used to pay for extra resources such as 1:1 teaching time.
- If the extra costs of providing for a child or young person are above £6,000, the local authority gives the school high needs “top-up funding”.



# What is high needs funding?

- High needs revenue funding pays for the extra support needed by children and young people aged 0 to 25, who have more complex SEN and disabilities.
- High needs funding also pays for those of school age but who are unable to go to school – e.g. because of being excluded, or for medical reasons – and who are therefore in alternative provision.
- High needs funding stands at just under £6 billion this year across England.



# A quick test:

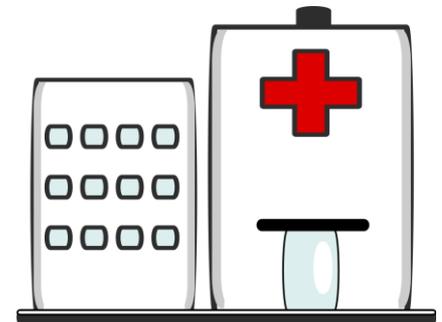
Which 3 of these might be paid for from high needs revenue funding?

1. A teaching assistant for 1:1 support **Correct!**
2. A taxi to school **Incorrect – this is normally paid for from the local authority's separate home-to-school transport budget**
3. A new lift in the school **Incorrect – this is normally paid for from capital funding**
4. A place at a special school **Correct!**
5. A place at an alternative provision for an excluded pupil **Correct!**



# High needs funding covers the costs of placements in specialist provision

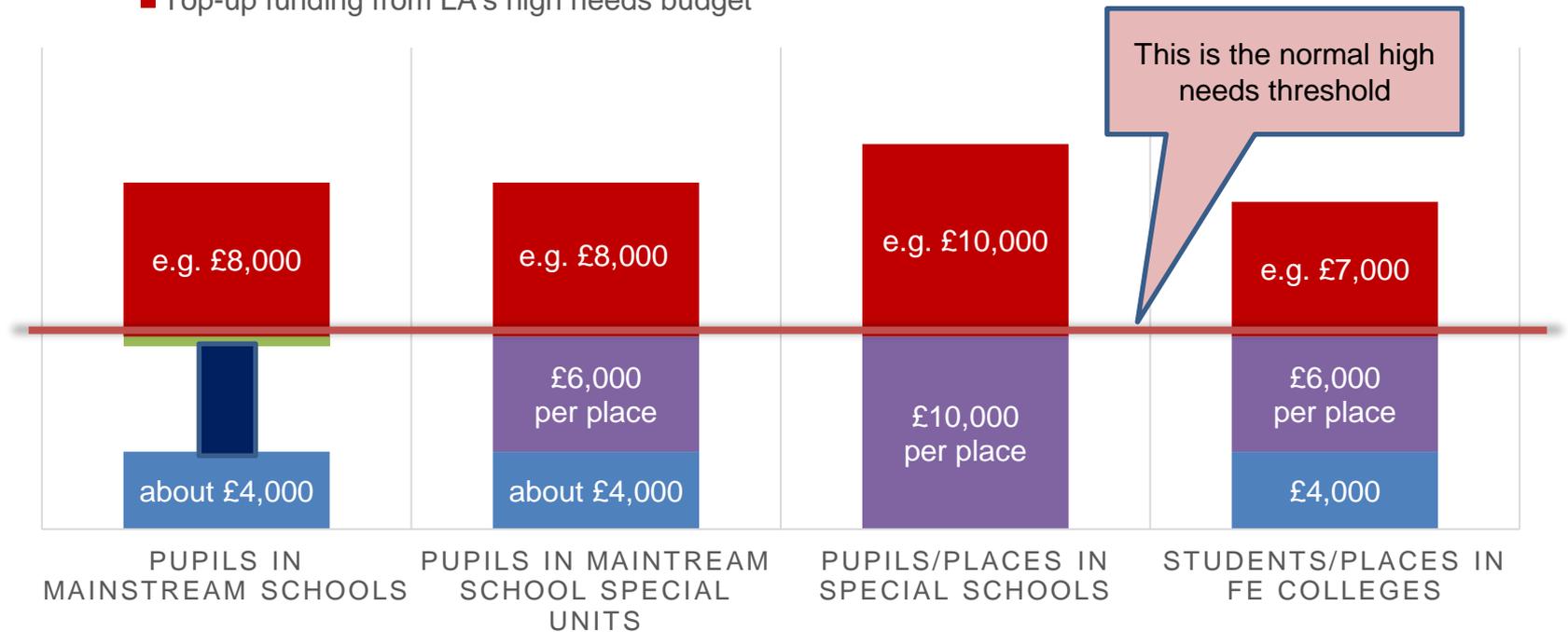
- High needs funding also pays for places in special schools.
- Special schools receive a standard rate of £10,000 per place, plus top-up funding for the excess costs of additional support, all paid from the local authority's high needs budget.
- A similar system operates for children in alternative provision, although some of their funding comes from the schools that use the places.
- If a child or young person needs to attend a hospital school for medical reasons, the costs of this are also paid for from the high needs budget.



# Let's look at this in a bit more detail

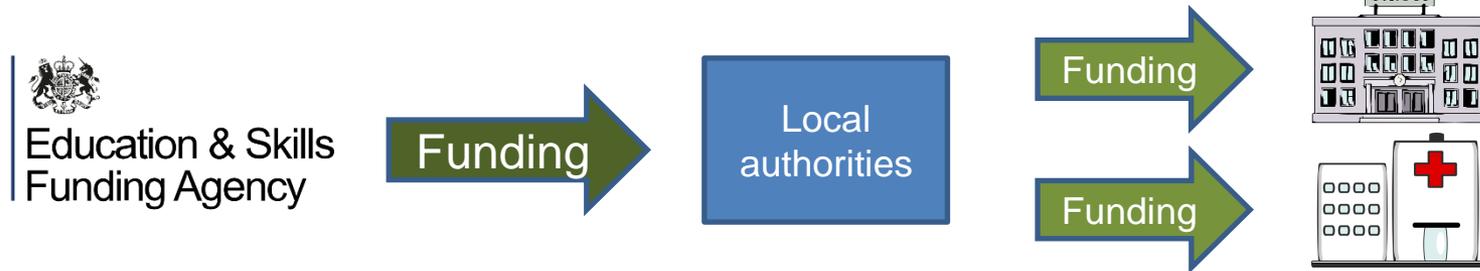
## WHAT MAKES UP PER PUPIL/PLACE FUNDING FOR PUPILS AND STUDENTS WITH HIGH NEEDS

- Mainstream basic entitlement per pupil/student
- School factor funding
- Top-up funding from LA's high needs budget
- Per pupil SEN proxy factor funding
- Place funding from LA's high needs budget



# How is SEND funding allocated?

- The Department for Education, through the Education and Skills Funding Agency, distributes the funding to local authorities: they are responsible for assessing needs and securing provision.

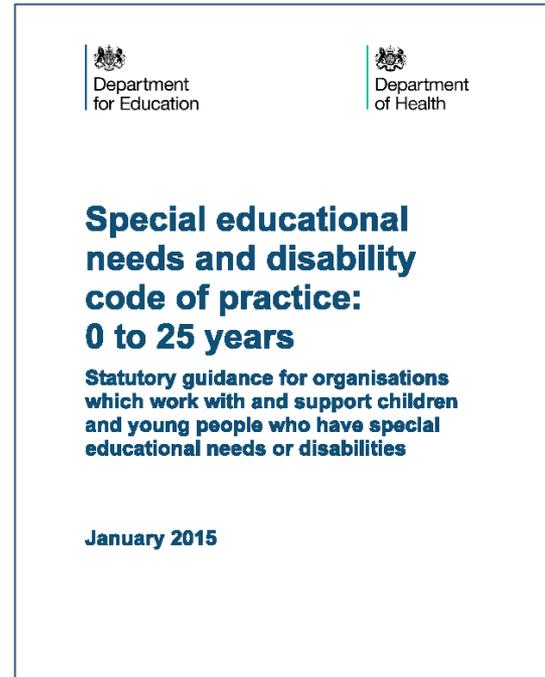


- Local authorities have significant discretion in the way that they allocate high needs funding to schools and other providers.
- The allocations of schools and high needs funding to local authorities have historically been based mainly on local spending patterns; this year we are allocating to local authorities on the basis of a schools and high needs national funding formula.



# How is SEND funding spent locally?

- The [SEND Code of Practice](#) is the document that explains how provision for children and young people with SEN, and who are disabled, should be made.
- Section 19 of the Children and Families Act requires local authorities to take account of the views of the parents, and the young person, during the process of carrying out an EHC needs assessment, and in making decision when drawing up an EHC plan.



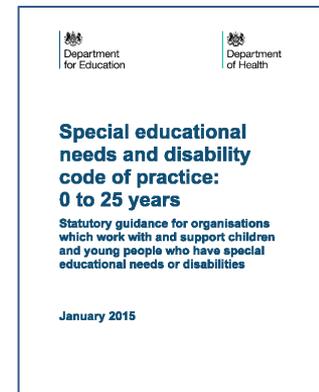
# From the SEND Code of Practice (1):

- Local authorities should have early discussions with parents or the young person about what the EHC needs assessment process and development of an EHC plan will involve, and the range of options that will be available.
- Local authorities **must** work with parents and children and young people to understand how best to minimise disruption for them and their family life. For example, multiple appointments should be co-ordinated or combined where possible and appropriate.
- Local authorities **must** provide all parents, children and young people with impartial information, advice and support in relation to SEN to enable them to take part effectively in the assessment and planning process.



# From the SEND Code of Practice (2):

- If a child's parent or a young person makes a request for a particular nursery, school or college the local authority **must** comply with that preference and name the school or college in the EHC plan unless:
  - it would be unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEN of the child or young person, or
  - the attendance of the child or young person there would be incompatible with the efficient education of others, or the efficient use of resources



# Funding pressures

- We recognise that schools and local authorities are concerned about the costs of supporting children and young people with SEN and disabilities, and whether there is enough funding.
- We have been talking to local authorities, schools and others to learn more about why the costs are increasing, and what can be done to make the system more affordable.
- Across England, high needs funding has risen by £1 billion since 2013, and will be over £6 billion next year. Overall schools and high needs funding will be £43.5 billion next year. We need to make sure that all this funding is going to where it is needed.



# Three key points

1. Focus on Provision, less on pounds
2. All school budgets include and amount of funding to help the school undertake they're full range of SEN duties.
3. For those with education health and care plans, the funding of provision **and** the responsibility for the delivery of the provision, is in most cases a joint responsibility of the provider and the LA



# For more information

## Visit the website

- <https://www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs>

Questions?

Comments?

Observations?

