

Family and child friendly Special Educational Needs information booklet



Parents often worry about how to talk to their children about special educational needs. This booklet is written to help support parents explain why their child may get extra help in school and encourage them to empower their children to be equal partners in solving any problems they may be experiencing.



Sarah Gentle, SENDCo

Why is school sometimes so hard?



Everyone learns in a different way. All children are good at some things. All children will have some things that they find hard to learn. Sometimes this is just for one lesson. But for some children lots of lessons seem hard.



Don't worry. This is true for one **out of every five** children.



So, you are **never** the only one in your class feeling learning can be hard.

Some children find learning is difficult for a short while. For others, they will have to work harder than their friends. But these children learn some things much better than others in their class.

These things are.....



...Being kind to others who also find things difficult



Does this sound like you?

What does the government say about helping children in school?

The government made a law to say teachers must help all children, not just the children who love learning and find school easy. This is so that all children get the same chance at making friends, feeling part of the school and learning what they need to get a job that they feel proud of in the future. All schools are given money from the government to help them stick to these rules.

These are the rules schools have to follow:

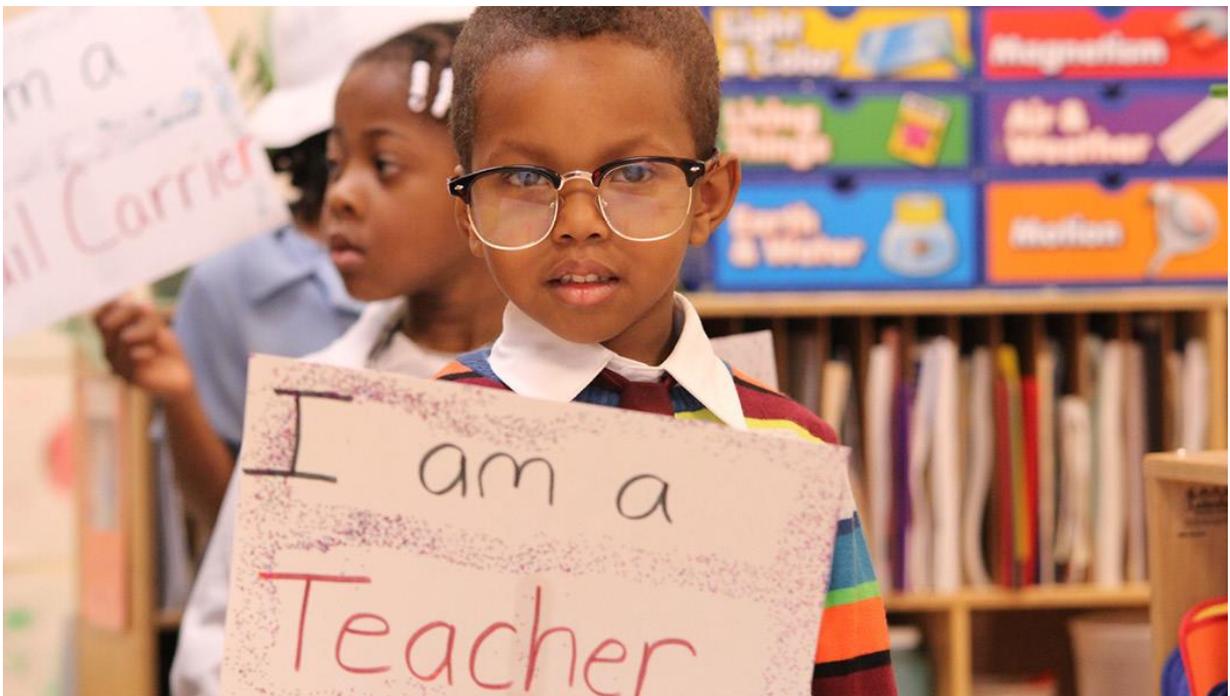
- Schools have to tell you and your parents or carers what they can do to help you
- Your teacher has to ask you for your ideas about how to help you
- Your teacher has to do the best they can to help you
- School must give you the same chance as your friends to join in clubs and extra activities in school
- School must stop others bullying you
- Adults must not be unfair or unkind if you have a disability



If you think an adult or child is being unfair or unkind please tell your parent/carer, your teacher, Mr Henery or Mrs Gentle.

Mr Henery expects everyone to keep learning and get better: that means the teachers too. So there are lessons for teachers and teaching assistants too. This teaches them how to help all children in school.

You can help your teacher too! You know exactly what you find easy in school and what is not so easy. You know when the teachers do something good that helps make learning seem fun. Tell your teachers and get your parents to tell the teachers too. This is how you teach your teacher.



Your parents and carers will help you as much as they can at home.

Sometimes the teachers are not sure what the best way is to help some children in their class. Then they go and ask for help from Mrs Gentle. Mrs Gentle helps them come up with a plan to help. She has a special name for her job. It is 'Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator' or **SENDCo** for short.

Mrs Gentle
SENDCo



Sometimes Mrs Gentle needs to ask someone else about the best way to help you. Then she will ask for other people called “experts” to come in and meet you.

The “experts” know a lot about how children learn and what makes them happy. The “experts” have new ideas that teachers will use.



So we are a **team** all helping you to be the best you can.

If you think the help is not working or makes you feel bad, **tell us**.
Together, we will think of better ways to do things.

Why do I have to go out of my classroom sometimes?

Some children need quiet learning time away from the rest of the class. This sometimes happens every day or sometimes once or twice a week. This could help you and a small group.

You might do:

Reading...



Writing...



Maths...



...keeping calm

5	I can't stand this and ready to explode. I want to hit someone, something, or throw something. I need an adult to help me go to a safe place so I can calm down.	🔴
4	I am getting too angry. My brain isn't working clearly. I might say or do something I will be sorry for later. I need to go to my safe place to calm down.	🟠
3	I am getting really irritated. I need to walk away from a bad situation. I will tell my teacher that I need a break.	🟡
2	I am doing OK. I'm not pleased, but I'm not upset. I can stay where I am and keep working. I can control my anger by myself.	🟡
1	I am doing great. I feel good about myself and about what is going on around me.	😊

...making friends



... or whatever you need to learn next

Whoever teaches you will tell you what they hope you will learn before you start these lessons. Afterwards they tell you how much you have learnt.

The grownups keep talking about an Education Health and Care plan.

What is it?

A few children in school have an **E**ducation, **H**ealth and **C**are **P**lan. It is called an **EHCP** for short. It is like a **special written promise**. If adults don't stick to it they are in trouble! Have you got an Education Health and Care plan?

The EHCP explains the things you are good at as well as the things you find difficult. It includes what you think about school and learning as well as what your parents think. The idea is that you and your parents realise that lots of people care for you and want you to be able to do your best in school.

It says what everyone has promised to do to



You, your parents and teachers are invited to a meeting called an **annual review**. This happens every year. It is your chance to make changes to what is written in your Education, Health and Care Plan. You can say if you are happy or not happy with the help you are getting. You also get to **eat cake** and have a drink!

Your parent/carer, your teacher or Mrs Gentle will explain this more before the meeting.



What does Acle St Edmunds Primary want for you?



- Everyone to be the best they can be (and that includes teachers)
- Help everyone who is finding things difficult (and that includes teachers)
- You and your parents to be an important part of the planning for your future.
- Help from people outside of our school if we need it.

And the reasons for this is we want all children:

- To be proud of themselves
- To grow up to be confident adults.
- To be good friends and have good friends.
- Have an important part to play in their community.

That is why we have this motto:

Learn more, think more, be more

