

What is a special educational need?

'A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:

*(a) have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age;
or*

(b) have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post 16 institutions.

A child under compulsory school age has special educational needs if they fall within the definition at (a) or (b) above, or would do so if special educational provision, was not made for them (Clause 20 Children and Families Act)' (Draft SEN Code of Practice 2013, 1.8)