

This information is about the support that Post 16 education providers must and should provide for young people with special educational needs (SEN).

Post 16 education providers include school sixth forms, sixth form colleges, general further education colleges, 16-19 academies, and specialist post 16 institutions.

The [SEND Code of Practice](#) says post 16 education providers should:

- be ambitious for young people with SEN, whatever their needs, and whatever their level of study.
- focus on supporting young people so they can make progress and have positive outcomes in adult life, independent living, having good health, and being part of the community where they live.
- support young people to participate in discussions about their aspirations, their needs, and the support they think will help them best.

Post 16 education providers **must**

- use their 'best endeavours' to put appropriate support in place.

### **The duties on post 16 education providers to identify SEN**

Post 16 education providers should be involved in transition planning, and work with schools to ensure a smooth transition. Post 16 education providers should give all applicants a chance to tell them about a learning need, medical condition, or disability that may affect their learning. When a student tells them about this, the post 16 education provider should discuss with the young person how they would support them.

Post 16 education providers should ensure that there is a named person in the setting who is in charge of SEN provision, similar to the role of the SENCo in schools.

## How do post 16 education providers offer support?

SEN support can take many forms, including:

- assistive technology
- personal care (or access to it)
- specialist tuition
- note takers
- interpreters
- one-to-one or small group learning support
- independent living training
- accessible information (such as symbol-based materials)
- access to therapies (such as speech and language therapy)

When a young person is identified as having SEN, the post 16 education provider should use a graduated approach based on four steps. These are:



### **Assess**

The post 16 education provider should bring together all relevant information from different people, including the school, the young person, and anyone else working with the young person. The education provider may wish to carry out their own screening assessments. This should be discussed with the student, who can be accompanied by a parent, advocate or other supporter.

### **Plan**

If the post 16 education provider decides that a young person needs SEN support, they should discuss with the young person their hopes for the future, the type of support they plan to put in place, and the date for reviewing the support.

## **Do**

This plan should be put into place by the college. A record should be kept of the support provided and the student's progress.

## **Review**

The effectiveness of the support should be reviewed regularly, taking into account the young person's progress and any changes to their ambitions and aspirations, which may lead to changes in the type and level of their support.

If the young person has not responded to the help they were given, the review should decide what can be done next. This may include more or different help.

Sometimes the next step may be to ask the local authority for an **EHC needs assessment**. If the school decides to do this they must tell you. If you think it is needed you can ask for it yourself.

## **Where can I get more information, advice or support?**

You can find out more about SEN Support by:

- looking at the SEN Information Report on the education provider's website
- talking to the education provider, they may have a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (or equivalent)
- looking at the [Local Offer](#)
- reading Chapter 7 of the [SEND Code of Practice](#)
- reading [SEND support: easy-read guide for children and young people](#)

You can also get in touch with **MK SENDIAS** on 01908 254518 or email: [contact@mksendias.org.uk](mailto:contact@mksendias.org.uk) who can give you:

- information about SEND support, including information about SEND funding
- advice about what to do if you are not happy with the support your education provider is offering
- information about other organisations, support groups and information services that could help
- information and advice about your rights to request an **EHC needs assessment**.