

THE SEN REGISTER

The **SEN (Special Educational Needs) Register** is a record maintained by schools and Local Authorities to track and support students with special educational needs. This register includes students who require additional or different support compared to their peers, to help them access the curriculum and achieve their potential. Being on the SEN register allows the school to monitor and provide tailored interventions, support plans (such as Individual Education Plans), and specialist resources.

Cognition and Learning Needs

These include difficulties in acquiring basic skills, such as reading, writing, and numeracy (e.g., dyslexia), and more complex learning difficulties.

Communication and Interaction Needs

This includes speech, language, and communication difficulties, as well as conditions such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Difficulties

This can include issues such as anxiety, depression, or behavioural challenges that affect a child's ability to learn

Sensory and/or Physical Needs

These include visual and hearing impairments or physical disabilities that require special educational provision.

THE KEY LEGAL FRAMEWORK COVERING SEND

Children and Families Act 2014

This is the primary legislation governing special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in England. Part 3 of the Act establishes the duties of local authorities, schools, and other institutions in supporting children and young people with SEN. The Act focuses on identifying needs early, providing appropriate support, and involving children, young people, and their parents in decision-making.

The SEN and Disability Code of Practice (2015)

This statutory guidance explains how schools should implement the legal duties under the Children and Families Act. The Code specifies that schools must maintain a record (the SEN register) of children who are receiving SEN support. It also outlines the graduated approach schools should follow when identifying and providing support.

The Education Act 1996

Sections of this Act, which are still in force, outline responsibilities around identifying and assessing SEN. The Act mandates that schools take appropriate steps to address students' special educational needs.