

People and services that can help your child

There are different kinds of help available for children with SEN. Some of this extra support may be provided within the school, from specialist services based in the Local Authority, or the Health service. Some of them are listed here.

Behaviour support teams

Can be based in schools or the local authority. They provide advice to school staff and parents on how to support pupils who have behavioural difficulties and who may be at risk of exclusion. They may also work with individual children and with small groups to help them learn skills and strategies to help them in class and/or during playtimes.

CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)

Support children and young people who have emotional and mental health difficulties, for example, children who are anxious or depressed. Specialists within CAMHS include counsellors, therapists and psychiatrists. They work closely with parents, schools and other services to provide diagnosis and strategies to address children and young people's needs.

Educational psychologists

Advise schools, parents, and education authorities about how best to support children with SEN to learn and develop socially at school. They may assess children through observing them in the classroom, by carrying out individual tests and by talking to teachers and parents about the child.



Education welfare officers

Work closely with schools and families to ensure children are attending school regularly. They can support parents who are having particular difficulties in getting their children to school and can provide strategies to improve attendance.

Occupational therapists

Work with parents, schools and others to assess where a child has difficulties with the practical and social skills necessary for everyday life. The therapist will aim to help the child be as physically, psychologically and socially independent as possible.

School counsellors/therapists

Work directly with children and young people individually or in groups to assess and support their emotional wellbeing. The approaches that are often used are 'talking' therapies, or art, drama, music and play therapy.

School mentors /Family Support workers

Work closely with pupils, school staff, parents and external agencies to provide pastoral care and help to overcome barriers to children's learning. This can include individual support, group work, addressing any behavioural difficulties and in some cases monitoring attendance.

School nursing services

Promote good health within schools and are involved with immunisation, health checks and screening, such as hearing and vision tests. School nurses can help to draw up an individual care plan for a child who needs individual support in school for a medical condition, and organise training for school staff.

Specialist advisory services

Help schools to support pupils with particular needs. They include specialist teachers in hearing or visual impairment, autism, speech, language and communication, physical impairment, or specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia. They contribute to assessments, provide advice, support and training in schools and parents, and sometimes directly with individual children.

Speech and language therapists

Work closely with parents, schools and others to assess if a child has difficulties with speaking, understanding language, communication or eating and drinking. The therapist decides on a programme to support the child to communicate as well as they can. The therapists can work directly with children and devise programmes for school staff and parents to follow.

Teaching assistants (TAs) or Learning support assistants (LSAs)

Teaching assistants support children who need extra help with learning. The TA works closely with teachers to support groups of children or individual children depending on the needs and strategies identified in their SEN support plan or EHC plan. Support might include helping a child with their reading or number skills, or carrying out a therapy programme.

