

Starting school



**SEND Information, Advice & Support Service
September 2015**

Starting school can be an exciting time for your child. All parents/carers want their child to be happy and get on well in their early education. However, you may have worries or concerns about what starting school will be like.

If your child or young person has additional needs and will require extra help, don't panic!

You can talk to the school staff and can also talk to us at Central Bedfordshire SEND Parent and Young Person Partnership Service
0300 300 8088

Before your child starts school

If your child has additional needs, you could ask the school for a copy of their:

- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti Bullying Policy
- Disability and Equality Policy
- Ofsted report (some may be written more recently than others)

Copies of these will also be on the school's own website.

Reading through this information, will give you an idea of how the school supports children with additional needs. It may also help you to think of other things you might want to ask about.

The SENCO is usually one of the teachers at the school who has additional responsibility for coordinating additional support. In a small school this may be the Headteacher.

Staff from your Early Years Education setting can pass previous records on to the new school, with your consent. This is quite important as it should tell the new school what has already been done, and what difficulties or strengths have already been noted.

Talking about the support you may need, early on, will help make a smooth start.

Here are some of the “terms” and “jargon” you might hear in your discussions:

SENCO Special Educational Needs Coordinator

SEND Support Help and support for children with SEN that is extra or in addition to what most other children of the same age will receive

SEND Support Plan A document setting out the strengths and weaknesses of you child and saying what support is in place

Stage 1 The first stage in the school's graduated approach to supporting a child

Stage 2 The second stage in the school's graduated approach when additional professionals are involved with the child

Education, Health and Care Plan This is a legal document detailing a child's special educational needs and the provision to meet those needs.

Your child or young person may start school at any of these stages, and move from one to another. Some children do not always need to continue to be supported if they are making adequate progress. The earlier you get involved, and work with the school, the better the support for your child.

Additional professionals who are there to help:

- The Psychology and Advisory Support team
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Health Visitor
- School Nurse
- Paediatrician
- Social Worker
- Inclusion Officer



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Further Information

Central Bedfordshire Council SEND PYPPS Special Educational Needs & Disability Parent & Young Person Partnership Service

The team:

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