

How is SEND provision funded?

All pupils/students attract an amount of funding based on actual pupil numbers (typically around £4,000 per pupil/student) called the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU). Some of this money is used for general SEND provision and could, for example, include the cost of providing the special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) at the school as well as other resources.

Schools and colleges are also funded to provide SEND-specific support for pupils who need it, including those with an education, health and care (EHC) plan. This support is additional to, or different from, the support that most other children get.

Schools provide up to the first £6,000 of this funding (on top of the AWPU). This does not mean that the school will spend £6,000 on every pupil with SEND. Sometimes it will use the funding to help groups of children - some children will need less help and others may need more.



Where pupils/students with SEND require additional support costing over £6,000, mainstream schools and colleges apply to the local authority for top-up funding from their high needs budget. This may run alongside an EHC assessment but does not have to.

c.£10k per place



Pupils/students will only be placed in specialist provision (e.g. special schools) if they have complex needs. Special schools receive £10,000 per place funding (£4,000 + £6,000). Specialist colleges receive slightly more per place. The local authority determines how much top-up funding is needed.

