



Our plan for SEND needs in 2026 - 2031



What is the plan about?

SEND stands for **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**. This means needing extra support to take part in education.

The number of children and young people with SEND has gone up in Gloucestershire.



This means there are challenges in making sure that every child and young person get what they need. This might be:

- Going to learn at the best place for them.
- SEND support in mainstream schools or colleges.



What does the plan do?

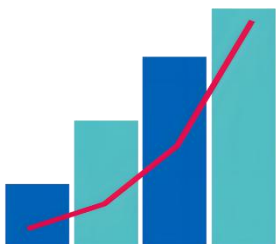
- It says how we will make sure people with SEND get what they need.
- It will be looked at with schools, children, young people and their families when we talk with them.
- It will help us to spend money where it is needed.





Introduction

Gloucestershire County Council must make sure that all children living in Gloucestershire have the right school place for them.



The need for SEND places has gone up over the last 10 years. We have made more places and put more SEND support in mainstream schools.



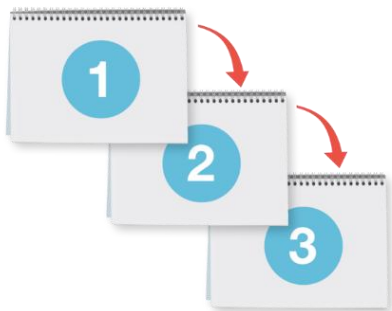
It is very important that we find the right place, at the right time for each child or young person.



There are also more early years children with SEND. We think the number will go up more because parents are now allowed 30 hours of childcare per week.

This plan talks about:

- The things we already do for people with **Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)**.
- What SEND places we think we will need in the future.
- What gaps there are in what we offer.
- What we are doing now.
- What our future plans are to make sure we get the extra places we need.



Changes to SEND



The Government has a 10-year plan to make it easier for children with SEND to get the support they need in **mainstream settings**.

Mainstream settings are the schools that most children go to.

Pupils with EHCPs get better results when they go to mainstream schools. This shows that **inclusion** is very important. **Inclusion means people who have different needs are together.**



The Government wants to spend more money on SEND pupils early on to help inclusion in mainstream schools.



Schools will get advice from 'Experts at Hand' to give some pupils the support they need without needing an EHCP.



Children and young people with more SEND needs might need **specialist places**.

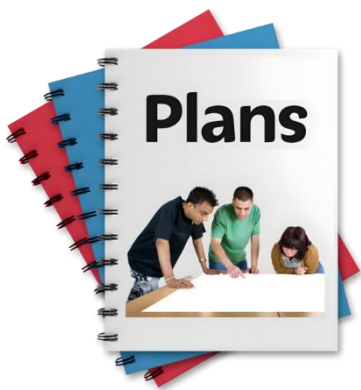
A specialist place can give extra support that can't be given in a mainstream setting.

Our plan will change as the Government's plan is agreed on. We will think about local needs as well.



The Government has another 10-year plan which is to do with school buildings.

They want them to be safe and inclusive which will help with having more SEND pupils stay in mainstream school.



What we are doing and will keep doing

At the moment we work with plans that cover 2022 to 2025.

These plans will be updated for 2026 to 2028 to meet the Government's plans.



We think some important things will stay the same:

- People getting support when they need it.
- Working on making it easier for pupils to get the education they need.



We will work to make sure that children and young people with SEND in Gloucestershire are supported:

- To do well.
- To do better than expected.
- To live really good lives.
- To be confident.
- To get to where they aim to be.
- To become adults positively.



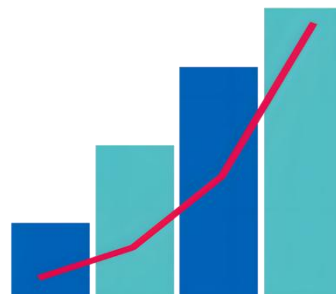
We will help with inclusion for children and young people with SEND in the communities where they live.

We know that making things better locally can help them and their families with:

- Better connections in their communities.
- Less travel time.
- More ways to travel.



How things are looking now in Gloucestershire

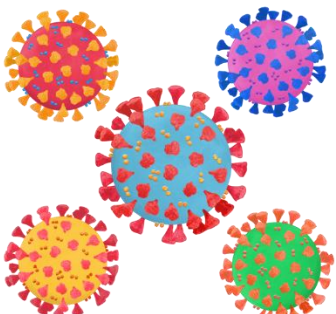
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- Nearly a quarter of all the people in the county are children and young people.
 - We think the number will go down from now until 2030.
 - The number of EHCPs for 0 – 25 years old went up in 2026.
 - The biggest number of EHCPs were for children aged 11 – 15.
 - The next biggest number was for children aged 5 – 10.
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The primary need means the main reason a child or young person needs support.

The most common **primary needs** seen in new EHCPs were:

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- Social, emotional and mental health.
 - Speech, language and communication needs.
 - Moderate learning difficulties.
 - **Autism.**

People with autism have brains that work in a different way. They might see the world and act in different way to most people.



The COVID-19 pandemic made some of the primary needs go up.



More people know about Autism and are getting help, so the number of children and young people needing support has gone up.

Why have we made this plan?



The system we have now is not helping as much as we would like. We want children and young people with SEND to do as well as other children and young people.

There is a high number of **exclusions** from school in Gloucestershire. **Exclusion means that the child or young person has been stopped from going to school or college.**



We looked at information about exclusions. It shows that spotting children early who have lower-level extra needs might help when they are older. This might lead to fewer exclusions.

The number of secondary school exclusions is going down, but primary school exclusions are going up.



Children who have a lot of needs might need support that targets their needs. This might be outside the county or at somewhere that costs a higher amount.



The costs have gone up every year. We want to work on being able to meet the needs in the county.



Some places get taken by people who don't live in Gloucestershire. We want to have a say in who gets the places in our county.



Appeals

There is a high number of parents who do not agree with the **placement** their child is given.

A placement is where we say a child will go to learn.

We expect this number to go up while we work to meet our plan's aims.



Early years

There is a lot of demand for places in early years settings.

A lot of children with SEND are staying in early years settings longer.



People can get more childcare paid for now.

These things add to the demand and there are often waiting lists.



The good thing is that we can spot children's needs sooner in early years.

There are not many places for early years children with EHCPs. They often don't go to school until they are of primary school age.

This means that these children can end up doing less well.



Support for children and young people with SEND now and in the future

In Gloucestershire, more children and young people with SEND, including those with EHCPs get support in mainstream schools.

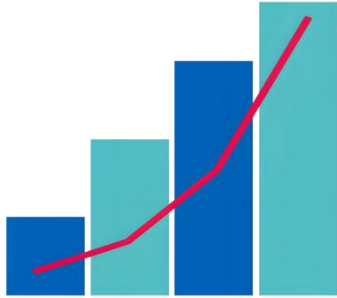


We have been working on making more places in special schools by:

- Building more space at Heart of the Forest Special School and Alderman Knight School.
- Making Sladewood Academy a special primary school.
- Opening Brook Academy - a special secondary school.



It looks like the number of places needed for SEND pupils will keep going up until at least 2028.



We want to keep supporting mainstream settings. They will then be able to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

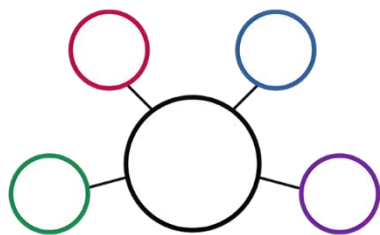
For children and young people with SEND, we aim to:

- Fund a range of places that meet their needs.
- Find places when and where they are needed.
- Make sure the places are good value for money.
- Make sure they get a good education and do well at the end of it.

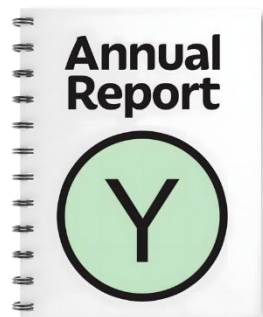


We will:

- Make the best use of every school building.
- Support mainstream schools to give support.
- Make early years SEND support better.
- Think of ideas for new projects.
- Use our funding where it is needed most.
- Look at **local partnerships** and make sure we are all giving the support that children and young people need.



Local partnerships mean groups we work with who aren't part of Gloucestershire County Council.



Who will check that the plan is working?

We will send reports to:

Gloucestershire's SEND and Inclusion Local Area Partnership Board

- They will look at how we are doing with the plan.

The Local Area Partnership Executive Board

The local area Specialist **Sufficiency** Group.

Sufficiency means making sure there is enough.

- They meet every month.
- The leader of the group is in charge of education in Gloucestershire.
- The group will check that our plans go ahead.



If the Government changes their plan, they will make sure our local plan changes too.

