

## What do we mean by Special Educational Needs?

Many children at some time in their school career will have special educational needs of some kind. **Most get over their difficulties quite quickly.** For others, the effects may last longer. All children have the right to a broad and balanced education. The law says that a child has special educational needs if he or she has learning difficulties and needs help. This help is known as special educational provision. A child has learning difficulties if he or she finds it much harder to learn than most children of the same age, or if he or she has a disability, which may impact on their learning.

For example, a child may have learning difficulties caused by:

- A physical disability
- Difficulties with reading, writing, speaking or mathematics work
- A problem with sight, hearing or speech
- A medical or health problem
- A mental disability
- Behavioural difficulties
- Emotional difficulties

These are only examples. Your child may have more general difficulties with schoolwork. Most children's needs will be met by their school, sometimes with the support of external agencies such as Speech and Language Therapists.

In a few cases, the Local Authority makes a statutory assessment based upon specialist advice. The Local Authority may then draw up an EHC plan, which describes the child's needs and provision.

**Early intervention is crucial.** As soon as a teacher or parent has registered a concern about a child's progress we will intervene to try to help the child overcome their difficulties as soon as possible. This is because we believe that children should be given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

A child may need a little extra support in class or to work in a small group with other children. Children usually enjoy taking part in groups and due to the caring nature of our school; children do not feel they are being 'singled out'.

An Individual Education Plan will be written which is shared with parents. The child's progress will be monitored and it may be decided that they no longer require extra support, or the school may decide some support is needed from an outside agency such as Educational Psychology.