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Information for parents and carers of children  
with special educational needs and disabilities



## Nottinghamshire County funding for SEN





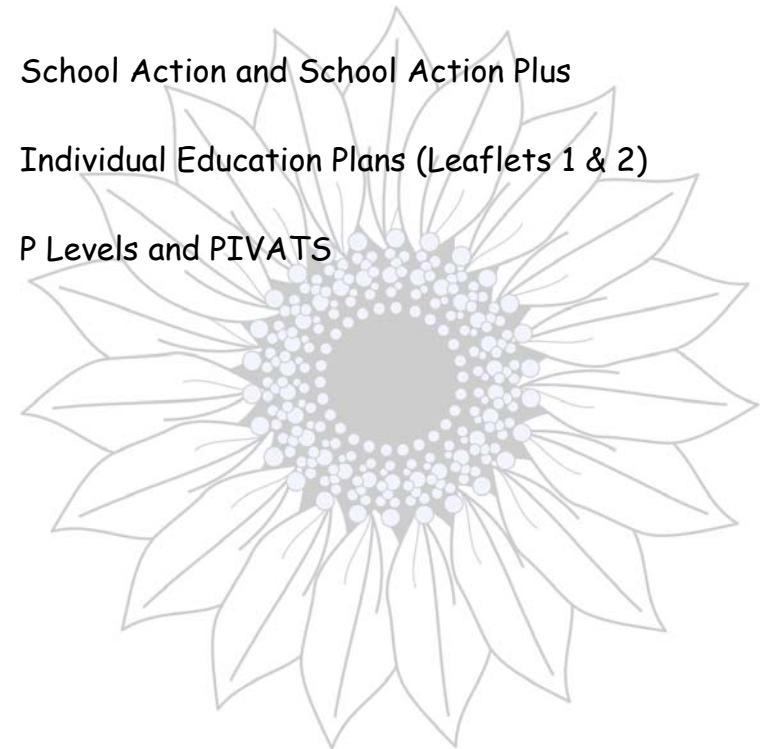
## Other leaflets that may be useful

An Extra Pair of Hands - explains how teaching assistants work with children with SEN

School Action and School Action Plus

Individual Education Plans (Leaflets 1 & 2)

P Levels and PIVATS



independent or they may need additional support at some point.

With the school and family of schools having control of their budgets they can respond more flexibly to the needs of children.

**What if I think the amount of funding my child gets is inadequate?**

Discuss any concerns you may have with the SENCO; he/she will be able to inform you how your child is being supported.

**Do I have the right to see any information written about my child for their funding?**

Yes - you have the right to see any information about your child.

## What is a Family of Schools?

Schools in Nottinghamshire are grouped into Families comprising one secondary school together with all the primary, junior, infant and nursery schools which feed into it. The Heads in a Family meet regularly as do other staff e.g. literacy co-ordinators, maths co-ordinators etc.

The SENCOs in the Family also meet and one person will take on the role of Family SENCO. In some Families this role is shared; in others the responsibility is rotated. The role of Family SENCO is a voluntary position. The SENCOs in a Family meet for training purposes, for support in their role and also to discuss the ASN money that is given to the Family.

Family SENCOs are supported in their role through half termly meetings which are a combination of briefing/training/sharing of good practice.

### Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)

This is the biggest part of each school's budget. The amount each school receives depends on the number of children in the school and also their age. A primary school receives less per child than a secondary school. Part of the AWPU will be used to support pupils with SEN.

### Additional School Needs (ASN)

The amount each school receives varies; this depends on national curriculum attainments and the number of children receiving free school meals within the school.

The money is given to the school to support children with SEN. The school can do this in a variety of ways e.g. small groups, employing additional staff or one to one.

This money, along with the AWPU, will provide the majority of funding for pupils with SEN in mainstream schools, including those placed at School Action and some at School Action Plus.

### What will happen if my child moves school?

If your child has ASN, this money will not transfer across to the new school, though the receiving school would look at the individual needs of the child when they entered the school. If your child has AFN money, and moves to another school within the same family, the monies will usually transfer across with them. If your child is moving to a different family of schools the support services will discuss the transition with the receiving school.

If your child receives HLN money this will transfer with your child, but this may be reviewed if he/she is coming up to a transition between key stages.

### Will the amount of support my child gets change?

Children's needs often change over time; they may need less support as they become more

## Frequently asked questions

### Does my child need a statement to receive extra funding?

No. The funding for each child depends on their individual needs. A child can receive ASN, AFN and HLN funding and full access to support services without a statement in Nottinghamshire.

### Who should I ask about what support my child receives?

Speak to the SENCO as they will be able to inform you of the support your child receives. Your child's class teacher will also be aware of the level of funding your child receives.

## Additional Family Needs (AFN)

The Local Authority gives a sum of money to each Family of schools; this amount depends on the number of pupils within the Family, the national curriculum attainment levels and the number of pupils receiving free school meals. Each school decides which children need to have a bid for funding made to the Family, then the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) from all the schools within the Family meet to discuss the individual bids; this is called Family Moderation.

The money is given to named children who are placed at School Action Plus or have a Statement of Special Educational Needs. Monies should be used for named children, though it is up to the individual schools to decide how the support is used for the pupil. The amount awarded for an individual pupil is usually for an academic year.

## High Level Needs (HLN)

This money is used to support children with very severe and complex needs; this is a very small number of pupils throughout Nottinghamshire.

An application for HLN funding is made to a panel after the family of schools has decided this is appropriate. The panel is made up of educational professionals including support services, school staff and the Parent Partnership Service. The panel meets every term, though the money is usually awarded for a key stage.

Schools often use the money to provide individual support in addition to small group or in-class support.

If an application for HLN is refused, the school has the right to ask for a separate review panel to reconsider the local authority's decision but only if information becomes available that was not available when the panel made their decision.

## Pre and Post Admission Support Scheme (PPASS)

Schools and Local Authority Support Services routinely provide support for children and young people with SEN who are changing schools. However, schools can apply for small amounts of funding to assist children with complex SEN when moving schools; for example, from primary to secondary school, or when a child has moved to Nottinghamshire from another local authority area. This can be used for training of staff, supporting extra visits to new schools, or for staff at the 'receiving' school to visit the child at their current school.

The purpose of the scheme is to ensure that the 'receiving' school has opportunities to develop skills in areas of SEN that staff have not encountered before. It also enables them to gain an understanding of the needs of the individual child prior to the child's transfer to the new school. The scheme does not provide long-term funding but is solely focused on transitional arrangements.