



FACTSHEET

WHAT IS A STATUTORY ASSESSMENT?

This is used to find out exactly what your child's special educational needs are and what special help your child needs. A statutory assessment is only needed if the school or early education setting cannot provide all the help that your child needs.

Parents have the right to ask the Local Authority to carry out a Statutory Assessment.

What is the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) Responsible for?

The SENCO provides the Authority with information on:-

- What has been done at School Action and School Action Plus?
- Individual Education Plans for your child which have been monitored and evaluated.
- Records of review meetings.
- If appropriate, your child's health and medical history.
- Your child's progress in the national curriculum.
- Your child's progress with reading, writing and number.
- Assessments from specialist support teachers and Educational Psychologists.
- Your views and the views of your child.

What is the Authority Responsible for?

- The Authority has 6 weeks to decide if a Statutory Assessment is needed. They will write to you about this and ask if you think an assessment should be carried out.
- A 'Named Officer' from the Authority or staff from the Parent Partnership Service can help to explain the assessment process and the time scales (no longer than six months in total).
- The Authority will listen to your views about your child's special educational needs and to the views of your child.



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- The Authority will look at information from the school about what has been done to help your child. They will check that everything that is appropriate has been done.
- This information will go to the Special Educational Needs Assessment Referral Panel.

If the Authority decides not to carry out an assessment they will tell you why. You can ask questions about this and let them know if you disagree. Parents can appeal against the Authority's decision.

If it is decided an assessment is needed the Authority will request up to date information from you and all the professionals involved with your child

What can I do?

You can help with the assessment by:

- Giving the Authority information about your child e.g. any difficulties they had before they started school, how they are at home, their views and wishes. The Authority will ask you for this kind of information; the Parent Partnership Service can help you to get it down in writing.
- Making sure your child attends any medical or other test during the Statutory Assessment.
- Suggesting any other people or organisations you know whose views may be helpful in the assessment of your child.

When the assessment has been done the Authority will decide to issue a 'Note in Lieu' or a 'Statement of Special Educational Needs'. Both will describe your child's special educational needs and the help they should receive. A Note in Lieu is used if the Authority believes all the help your child needs can be provided from the support already available in school. A Statement will be issued if these needs cannot be met from the school's resources.



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Rotherham, like most other Authorities, has delegated funding for most children with Statements of SEN to schools. This comes into schools as part of their whole school budget, along with funding allocated for the support of children at School Action, and School Action Plus. Both of these funding streams should be used along with the whole school budget to support all children with special educational needs.

Information about both of these is available from the Parent Partnership Service.

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