

Support you should expect from school

This page covers:

- The law
- Making reasonable adjustments
- What is reasonable?
- Who do I speak with?

The Law

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: (0 to 25 years) (2015) states that ‘support for learning difficulties may be required when children and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation’.

Schools are required to have a published policy regarding their Special Educational Needs, and this should be found on the school’s website.

Making reasonable adjustments

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments so that pupils can fully participate in the school activities and curriculum. This will apply if the school considers your child’s dyslexia severe enough. However, the law does not state what is ‘reasonable’. This allows for flexibility, given the very different nature of schools.

These things could be considered reasonable.

- regular sessions with a specialist teacher
- the use of coloured overlays and paper
- using assistive technology such as laptops, iPads, a Dictaphone
- advice or support from a specialist teacher

Who in school will help me?

Speak with your class teacher, and make an appointment with the school SENCO (the special educational needs co-ordinator).

In a meeting be specific about your concerns, and know what you want to ask. For example:

- What is my child's progress like?
- How has that been measured?
- Is extra support appropriate?
- What support is, or can be, in place?

Schools should be communicating with all parents on a regular basis. If your child is having difficulties with any aspect of their learning, they should be in touch more regularly, with information about any appropriate support.

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