

Staffordshire's SEND Reform Plan

Parent and Carer Update July 2026

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Staffordshire's SEND reform plan

Timeline

Feb 2026

**Government publish
'Every child achieving and thriving' White Paper**

- Every local authority must submit a coproduced plan to reform SEND in their area

June 2026

Staffordshire submits a detailed SEND reform plan including:

- Three year plan
- Strengthened one-year plan
- Experts at hand plan

Late Sept 2026

Confirmation of outcome

- Approval will result in 90% of our deficit being 'covered'
- £6.1m in year one to support transformation and develop and deliver our experts at hand approach



How our SEND strategy priorities align with the building blocks in our SEND reform plan



Projects to deliver our SEND reform plan

Strengthening inclusion across education settings

Projects:

- Defining inclusion in Staffordshire
- Defining our universal offer and ordinarily available provision
- Developing the Graduated Approach

Access to specialist support and local placements

Projects:

- Experts at Hand
- Sufficiency and place planning

System leadership, local partnership collaboration and co-production

Projects:

- Co-production, communication and lived experience
- Governance structures and partnerships
- Performance, data and outcomes
- Improving quality and timeliness in statutory pathways
- Improving the Local Offer

Encouraging inclusive culture and behaviours

Projects:

- Partnership learning, insight and a culture of continuous improvement



Experts at hand



Launching in September 2026

Putting specialists - such as speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, and educational psychologists into mainstream schools and early years settings.

The Goal

Provide children with early support, without the need for a formal diagnosis or waiting for a crisis.

How it Works

For children:

Small groups or whole class intervention for needs like emotional regulation, speech development learning

For teachers:

Training and coaching to equip them with strategies to support children better

For parents:

Provide resources so that support can be continued at home

- ✓ Improve the skills of schools
- ✓ Not a replacement for EHCP but additional
- ✓ No diagnosis needed

Department of Education guidance on inclusion bases in schools

Six principles of effective practice



1 Supporting inclusion in the school or local area

Inclusion is a shared responsibility. Schools work collaboratively to remove barriers and strengthen inclusion locally.



2 High-quality curriculum design

An ambitious, inclusive curriculum meets the needs of all learners and supports them to achieve and thrive.



3 Effective data, assessment and outcomes

Robust assessment and data inform decision-making and ensure positive outcomes for every pupil.



4 Effective workforce and leadership

Skilled, confident staff and strong leadership drive a culture of inclusion and high expectations for all.



5 Effective partnership working

Strong partnerships with families and external agencies provide joined-up support for pupils and their families.



6 Inclusive and accessible physical environments

Well-designed environments remove barriers and promote independence, wellbeing and participation for all.

Enhanced SEND resource bases in mainstream schools in Staffordshire

- planning for 40 to 50 enhanced resource bases
- 10 to 15 places for children with an EHCP
- enhanced specialist resources
- supported by local special school
- starting in September 2027



SEND Reform – what are your best hopes?

Together, let's reflect on what we've heard today...

- What sense do you make of what is being proposed?
- What are your best hopes for a post SEND reform world?
- What would it look like if the system worked for your children?



Every child achieving and thriving

Staffordshire's SEND reform plan

Together we will:

- Strengthen inclusive practice so more children and young people can thrive in mainstream settings
- Improve access to timely, specialist support closer to home
- Build strong local partnerships with families, education, health and care
- Develop a more consistent and transparent SEND system across Staffordshire
- Focus on early intervention and better outcomes for all

What to expect next

- Experts at Hand starts from September 2026
- Waiting for detail on the government's approach to EHCPs...
- Coming soon - video to share with parents and education settings

