



# Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA)

A fact sheet for parents and carers

## When is an EHC needs assessment request appropriate?

In West Sussex, a request for assessment must show that the school has put in place the approaches set out in the **Ordinarily Available Inclusive Practice (OAIP)** guidance, as part of the graduated approach to meeting the pupil's needs.

Schools need to show that, despite this relevant and purposeful action, the pupil has not made expected progress.

Good practice is that **at least two terms of evaluated provision** will have been in place before an EHC needs assessment request would usually be considered. It is very difficult to show relevant, purposeful action and evaluate its impact over a shorter time. Those two terms can span different National Curriculum stages or different settings, as they are all part of the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle of the graduated response during a child's education.

The school must show in the application that the child's needs are significantly affecting their academic progress, and that the support the school already provides is not helping. A child can be behind their peers and still make progress with the school's support.

## Things to consider

- Have you read through the EHCNA guidance provided by West Sussex?
- Has your child had any recognised need previously?
- If your child has a diagnosis of a SEND need, this does not necessarily mean they need an EHCP.
- What outcome do you want from an EHCP, and can that be met by the school without one?

## If a parent or carer makes the request

If a parent, carer or young person requests an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment, the school will receive a letter from SENAT saying a request has been received and asking the school to complete the request documentation.

### Not enough evidence

If your child has a recognised need, they will still be supported in school. The pastoral and SEND teams work closely together to put in place any adjustments that support your child in school. Your child might also be discussed with the Learning Behaviour Advisory Team.

### Accepted for the pathway to assessment

Once the application has gone to Panel, you will receive a letter confirming whether the assessment is going ahead. Your child will then be assessed by an Educational Psychologist. This assessment will inform the EHCP.

Questions? Talk to your child's class teacher first, or make an appointment with Mrs Older, Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion, through the school office: 01273 453176 · office@sgprimary.co.uk