



What is a Statement?

A Statement of SEN is a legal document produced by the Local Authority (LA) which describes:

- A child's learning needs; and
- The help they should receive to meet those needs.

The help must normally be described in as much detail as possible. The statement should also say where the child will be educated (although the parent may say which school they want their child to go to).

After receiving all the reports from the professionals during the statutory assessment the LA will issue a Proposed Statement.

Parents have 15 days in which to:-

- Tell the LA what they think of the proposed statement
- Meet and discuss matters with LA officers and any professional who gave advice in compiling the statement
- Express a preference for the school they want their child to attend.

Parents can ask for any number of further meetings with the LA within 15 days of any previous meeting - and then have another 15 days after the final meeting to send the LA any more comments.

If the LA decides against the parents' first choice of school they should inform the parents in writing of that decision, of the availability of parent partnership and dispute resolution services and their right to appeal to the SEN Tribunal

The Final Statement must contain:

- The child's family details
- The LA's description of the child's SEN
- The provision to meet those needs, quantified in terms of hours and staffing arrangements and the objectives to be achieved
- The type of school the LA considers appropriate
- The name of a particular school, unless parents have made suitable alternative arrangements
- The arrangements for monitoring and reviewing the statement
- All non-educational needs with details of the provision to meet them (though this is not legally binding in the same way that provision for educational needs is).

The final statement, including reports, may not be disclosed without parents' consent, except in specific circumstances.

Parents have the right to appeal against what is written in Part 2 and Part 3 of the Statement, ie the child's SEN and the provision. They can also appeal against the type and name of the school listed by the LA, or the LA not naming the school.

Parents can also appeal to the SEN Tribunal if the LA:

- Refuses to carry out an assessment
- Refuses to make a statement
- Decides to stop maintaining a statement
- Refuses to re-assess a child following a parent's request if an assessment has not been made for six months
- Refuse to amend the statement
- Refuses to change the name of the school in an existing statement if a request to do so has not been made for 12 months.