

East Sussex SEND Strategy 2026-2030

Summary for Schools and Settings



What is the SEND Strategy?



The Strategy explains how different services will work together to provide better support to children and young people with SEND. It is based on the East Sussex definition of Inclusion:

“Everybody working together so that all children and young people access education and are supported in their safety, wellbeing and learning to belong, thrive and achieve”

The Strategy requires education, health and care services to work closely with families, settings and representative bodies. Partnership working plays a vital role in ensuring families experience support that is caring and consistent.

Our Shared Vision



By 2030, all children and young people with SEND will be part of an inclusive and equitable system underpinned by strong partnerships between settings, schools, families and services. Children and young people will receive high-quality inclusive education close to home. Their wellbeing and health will be prioritised, and their ambitions fulfilled.



What this means for schools and settings



The strategy aims to create a more inclusive education system where:

- Partners come together with shared accountability for inclusion
- Early intervention is prioritised
- Families experience consistent support
- Families are active partners and co-production is embedded
- Outcomes and experiences improve for all learners with SEND



What children and young people told us

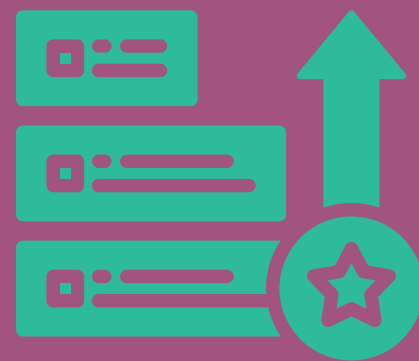


We asked children and young people what is important to them. They told us they want:

- to be listened to
- people who support them to have more training
- not to have to wait a long time for support
- better communication
- to be supported earlier, before challenges get worse
- more support to prepare for the future



Priorities



The Strategy sets out six clear priorities. To achieve these, all partners will need to work together.

1. Collaboration

We will:

- support settings to strengthen co-production with families
- ensure a clear and consistent approach to collaboration across East Sussex
- prioritise co-production at local and strategic levels

This priority aims to ensure families have confidence in local provision. We want families to be recognised as equal partners, leading to improved experiences, progress and outcomes.

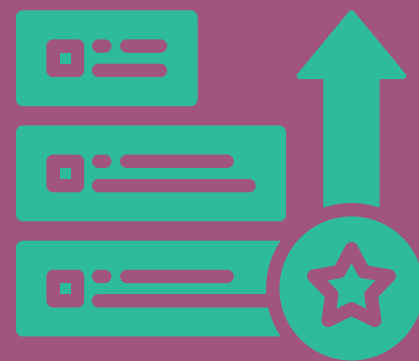
2. Inclusive Environments

We will:

- align workforce training with practical, in-setting support, effective strategies will be modelled in real environments
- support professionals in translating learning into practice
- ensure inclusive approaches are understood and applied consistently

This priority aims to ensure professionals are trained to provide high-quality, effective support in their settings.

Priorities



3. Coherence

We will:

- ensure services and pathways are designed clearly so that they are understood by all partners
- support and encourage effective information sharing between everyone involved in providing support, including families

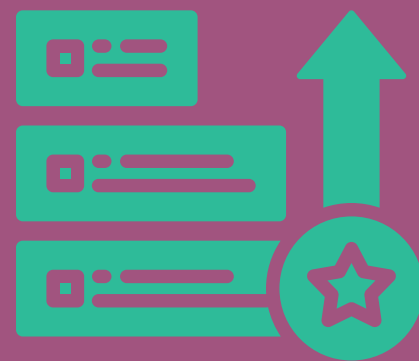
This priority aims to ensure families have a more seamless, joined-up experience. It will minimise the need for repetition when receiving support across services.

4. Timeliness

We will work with partners to reduce waiting times for:

- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
- the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- medical equipment
- assessments from Neurodevelopmental Services

Priorities



5. Early Intervention

We will:

- work with partners to strengthen the universal and targeted offer within Early Years settings
- integrate Early Years educators into planning and decision-making

This priority aims to identify and address needs at the earliest opportunity. This work will equip practitioners with the knowledge and skills to implement evidence-informed support.

6. Destinations

We will:

- make more post-16 pathways available for children and young people
- make sure information about pathways is clear and accessible
- support settings to help children and young people plan for their future earlier

This priority aims to ensure families are well informed of the support available to them. It will ensure pathways and destinations are well understood.

How we'll know it's working



By 2030, we expect to see:

- Inclusive practice embedded across schools and settings
- Stronger collaboration between services
- Improved attendance
- Fewer exclusions
- Improved engagement in education, employment or training
- Increased confidence in supporting SEND learners
- Better experiences and outcomes for children, young people and their families

Looking ahead to 2030

✓ Better attendance

✓ More local opportunities

✓ Stronger feelings of belonging

✓ Better experiences for families

✓ Earlier support

✓ Fewer exclusions

Monitoring our progress



The SEND Strategy Governance Board will monitor our progress. The Board represents many different groups and services.

It includes:

- Parents and carers
- Young people with SEND
- Representatives from schools and settings
- Health professionals
- Education professionals
- Social Care professionals

An independent chair leads the Board. The Board meets regularly to discuss progress and provide direction.