



Leeds Local Offer:

The mainstream school offer

What is the mainstream school offer and where has it come from?

The Children and Families Act became law in March 2014. The Act aims to improve services for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities and their families.

The Act is supported by something called the SEN code of practice. The code of practice gives guidance to all the education, health and social care partners who deliver services for children and young people with SEN and disabilities.

The code says that local authorities (Councils) should set out details of the offer of support families can expect from all education providers in the area, including all schools.

It also says that all schools must also provide information about their individual support for children and young people with SEN and disabilities, on their own websites and/or printed information.

This guide sets out the offer of support that families can expect from all mainstream schools in Leeds. We also have another offer of specialist education in Leeds, providing additional high level support for those with the most complex needs. See our 'specialist education offer' guide for more details (see contact details on last page to request a hard copy).

Who decided what to include in the mainstream school offer?

A working group called the SEN strategy group worked together to agree the offer of support. This group was made up of teachers from primary and secondary schools and other colleagues working in education. Consultation with more schools was also done at meetings, conferences and 'drop-ins'.

Consultation was also done with families by attending support groups and through a 'virtual' group of parents and carers who prefer to get involved by email. Children and young people with SEN and disabilities at schools and youth groups were also asked what was important to them about their school life. Comments made by all these partners were taken into account and influenced the final offer.

How can I find schools in my area?

If you have access to the internet you can use the 'search' function in the Leeds Local Offer website to find schools in a specific postcode area. The 'search' function is accessible on every page of the Leeds Local Offer site (www.leeds.gov.uk/localoffer).

If you don't have access to the internet, you can visit any Leeds library or One Stop Centre and ask for help to use the website and access the rest of the Leeds Local Offer. You can also call the Family Information Service for details of schools in your area on free phone 0800 731 0640 or 0113 2474386.

All schools are required under the new code of practice (see above) to publish details of their offer of support for children with SEN and disabilities, on their own websites and/or printed information.

The offer of support for children and young people with SEN and disabilities that families can expect from all schools in Leeds:

Ethos/ philosophy	<p>Schools will have an inclusive ethos and high aspirations for all learners</p> <p>Schools will be committed to early intervention and the Early Support principles (www.gov.uk/help-for-disabled-child/early-support-programme)</p> <p>Schools will value and honour the voices of children and young people and their families and provide opportunities for them to influence change</p>
Leadership	<p>There will be effective leadership at all levels, including the SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator)</p> <p>There will be effective monitoring, review, evaluation of SEND provision</p> <p>There will be accountability and governance of SEND provision and regular reporting on how individual needs are met</p>

Budget	<p>All schools will have an identified budget for supporting SEND. Families will be able to access clear information about how this budget is used to support learners.</p> <p>All schools will also make effective use of available funding from the local authority (Funding for Inclusion).</p>
Policies	<p>There will be effective policies which are understood and consistently applied in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion Behaviour Teaching and learning Safeguarding/child protection Bullying Equalities Health and Safety Access Information sharing
Curriculum, teaching and learning	<p>There will be an appropriate curriculum that meets specific needs</p> <p>There will be effective teaching and classroom management of support</p> <p>There will be clear and regularly reviewed plans to support students' learning.</p> <p>A range of 'interventions' (support programmes) will be used, for example 1:1 support, nurture groups , mentoring and so on</p> <p>There will be effective use of appropriate resources and an accessible environment for learning, with access to ancillary aids and assistive technology where needed</p> <p>There will be extra pastoral support arrangements to aid the social, emotional and behavioural development of children and young people with SEND, including measures to prevent bullying</p> <p>There will be effective transition arrangements to help children and young people move between phases of education</p>
Assessment	<p>There will be a graduated approach to assessment and high quality practice in assessment. There will be an established method for recording agreed outcomes of assessment and communicating the outcomes to those involved</p> <p>Progress and plans will be regularly reviewed and evaluated</p>

<p>Workforce development and training</p>	<p>All staff will have or be supported to gain basic awareness of inclusion issues</p> <p>Teaching and non-teaching staff working directly with children and young people with SEND will have, or be supported to develop, enhanced skills to meet particular types of need</p> <p>Staff who wish to gain specialist level skills and knowledge will be supported and encouraged to do so</p> <p>Staff will be skilled and able to identify and support families who need extra help, early on. In Leeds we call this 'Early Help'. Find out more at leeds.gov.uk in the 'children and families' section or email bpteam@leeds.gov.uk for a quick guide to Early Help</p>
<p>Working in partnership with other agencies</p>	<p>Schools will have regular engagement with teams in the local authority who can including the School Improvement team, the Educational Psychology team and SEN and Inclusion team, and attendance officers</p> <p>Schools will work in partnership with other agencies including speech and language therapy services, school nurses, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the Parent Partnership Service</p> <p>Schools will also access support in their local area and cluster, for example family outreach workers, TSLs (targeted services leaders), and AIPs (Area Inclusion Partnerships)</p>

Additional support for children and young people who are looked after by the local authority (in foster care or residential settings)

Children and young people who have SEN and disabilities and are also looked after by the local authority are some of our most vulnerable citizens.

Leeds City Council is committed to providing extra support for these children and young people to make sure they achieve the best possible outcomes in education.

These children and young people will always be enrolled in a school that has an Ofsted rating of 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

Their school must always provide a 'designated teacher' who will give them with specific support to learn and develop, and help to meet their wider needs.

Their school must also work with social care colleagues to produce a Personal Education Plan for them. The Plan is an extra way to ensure that these vulnerable children and young people are supported to achieve their best possible outcomes in education.

Their schools can also access additional funding to support them, called 'Pupil Premium Plus', to help deliver this extra support.

The Leeds City Council Educational Psychology team also offer additional support to ensure the well-being of these children and young people

For more information about this please contact bpteam@leeds.gov.uk or call the SEND Information Advice and Support service (see contact details on last page).

What about educating my child at home?

The Education Act 1996, Section 7, states that:

'It is the duty of parents of every child of compulsory school age to ensure that they receive efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs they may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise'.

The word "otherwise" means parents can educate their child themselves if they wish to, provided their child is able to access full time education suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they have.

If your child has complex needs and an Education Health and Care plan, the law says you need to agree arrangements to educate at home with the head of the complex needs service in Leeds City Council.

If you have access to the internet, you can find more information on the Family Information Service website at www.familyinformationleeds.co.uk (click on 'education', then 'elective home education').

If you don't have access to the internet and/or you need more information and advice about elective home education, contact the Leeds SEND Information Advice and Support service. See the last page for contact details.

What if I think there is something missing in this offer of support?

The SEN strategy group (see above) will continue to meet in future to keep reviewing the offer of support. The group want to hear feedback from families to help develop the offer.

To give your feedback, please email bpteam@leeds.gov.uk or write to us at: Best Practice Development Team, Children's Services, Leeds City Council, Adams Court, Kildare Terrace, Leeds, LS12 1DB.

What if I think my school is not providing this offer and is not meeting my child's needs?

If you are unhappy about the support you are receiving from a school, we recommend you talk to them first and explain your concerns so they have chance to talk about this with you and resolve problems together.

If this doesn't help and you are still unhappy, you can make a complaint to Leeds City Council. Please be aware that the Council does not govern schools and cannot make them take any particular action. However we can encourage them and support them to be fully inclusive.

To make a complaint, you can complete a 'Contact Us e-form' on the Leeds City Council website at www.leeds.gov.uk/council/Pages/Let-Us-Know-Compliments-Complaints-and-Feedback. You can also speak to an advisor on 0113 222 4405.

If you wish, you can also raise a concern about a state school with Ofsted. Ofsted is the office for standards in education and is the national body responsible for state schools. You can contact Ofsted by email via enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk or you can telephone: 0300 1234 234 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm). Ofsted ask people who want to raise an issue about a school, to raise the issue directly with the school first.

Ofsted does not manage complaints about academies or free schools. To make a complaint about an academy or free school, you must visit the Department for Education website at www.education.gov.uk/form/school-complaints-form. If you need help to access this, you can visit any Leeds library or one stop centre, or contact the Leeds SEN Information Advice and Support service (contact details on last page).

How can I get more advice and support?

If you would like advice and information about how to use the Leeds Local Offer please contact the Leeds SEND Information Advice Support Service (formerly Parent Partnership Service). The team can provide you with general information about services for SEN and disabilities and advise you on how best to access the site from a private or public computer or mobile device (phone or tablet). Leaflets and downloads can also be posted out to you. For expert advice on any of the services shown in the Leeds Local Offer please use the contact details that each specific website provides.

You can call the Helpline on 0113 3951200 or send an email to:
sendiass@leeds.gov.uk