

SEND TEAM - FREQUENCY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS


We have created this document to help with frequency asked questions. Our goal is to streamline communication and provide you with quicker advice and support.

Frequently Asked Question	Answer	Further support links
General		
<p>Can I ask for my child/young person to be kept back a year to catch up?</p>	<p>As a parent, you have the right to discuss why you believe repeating a year would benefit your child. While the final decision rests with the Head Teacher, they will carefully consider whether this is the best educational option for your child. They will also explore other strategies or support that the school could provide, such as special educational needs support and adjustments to their educational program.</p> <p>It's important for the school to work collaboratively with you, exploring the best educational options and discussing potential alternatives. Together, you can consider the implications of repeating a year and ensure that any decision made is in the best interest of your child.</p> <p>Things to consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will be the impact on your child's friendships? How will the decision affect your child's friendships? • What will be the impact on your child's self-esteem? What impact will it have on your child's self-esteem? • Is keeping your child back a substitute for providing the support that is needed for their SEN (Special Educational Needs)? Would they be better remaining in their current year group but having more support and a more differentiated curriculum? Is repeating a year a substitute for providing the necessary support for their Special Educational 	

	<p>Needs (SEN)? Would they benefit more from staying in their current year group with additional support and a more tailored curriculum?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will have changed by this time next year? Will your child be mature enough to go up to the next year or have you just postponed the problem? What changes do you expect by this time next year? Will your child be ready to move up a year, or will this just delay the issue? • Consider what will happen when they need to change schools? There are no guarantees that their next school will receive them into the year group below. What will happen when your child needs to change schools? There's no guarantee that the new school will place them in the year group below. • What will happen when they are no longer statutory school age? If your child is kept back a year, they will reach the end of statutory school age in year 10, before sitting their GCSEs. They could choose to leave school at this point. What are the implications when your child reaches the end of statutory school age? If they repeat a year, they will finish statutory schooling in Year 10, before taking their GCSEs, and might choose to leave school at that point. <p>NOTE: This is not something the Local Authority (LA) routinely agrees to.</p>	
<p>I think my child/young person needs transport to school. What do I need to do to find out if they are eligible?</p>	<p>Transport to school is only offered in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>School Transport is generally limited to those children attending their designated or nearest school and when one of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school is more than two miles from the home address for a school child aged between 5 and 7 years old. • The school is more than three miles from the home address for a school child aged between 8 and 16 years old. • The pupil is unable to walk to school by reason of their special educational need, disability or mobility problem. 	<p>Transport Team Tel: 01803 207688 cstransport@torbay.gov.uk</p> <p><u>Apply for home to school transport - Torbay Council</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nature of walking the route to the school is deemed by the Local Authority as being unsuitable for pedestrian use. 	
<p>My child/young person is struggling to attend school due to anxiety. What can I do?</p>	<p>It is common for children and young people with SEND to experience anxiety, and sometimes this can become more severe, making it difficult for them to attend school. Please reach out to their school as soon as possible to share the challenges they are facing. You can also talk to their GP for additional support.</p> <p>Consider who in the school you feel most comfortable talking to. School staff have different roles, and as your child's needs change, you might find it helpful to speak with different people.</p> <p>Together you can discuss ways to support your child. Our EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance) toolkit offers various support strategies, including involving specialist services and providing useful links to other resources.</p>	<p>final_ebsa.pdf (torbayfamilyhub.org.uk)</p>
<p>I am considering home education as my child is struggling at school. What do I need to consider?</p>	<p>Home educating your child is always an option, and some parents are choosing this path. It is a big decision, so it's important to reflect on why you're considering this step.</p> <p>Some parents feel that their child's special educational needs are not being met in school and see home education as an alternative option. If this resonates with you, please reach out to us. We can discuss your concerns and explore whether additional support from the school might be a better solution.</p> <p>If your child has an Education Health and Care plan (EHCP), it's a good idea to request an early Annual Review. This will allow us the opportunity to</p>	<p>Elective Home Education - Torbay Council</p> <p>Elective Home Education - Family Hub (torbayfamilyhub.org.uk)</p> <p>ehe@torbay.gov.uk Tel: 01803 206473</p>

	<p>discuss your reasons for home educating and update the EHCP to reflect this change.</p> <p>For children in special schools, the local authority must approve the removal of your child's name from the school roll. However, this process is usually straightforward.</p> <p>By law, the local authority must ensure that the education provided at home is suitable for your child with an EHCP. Their progress will be reviewed annually during the EHCP review.</p>	
<p>How can I find out what support my child/young person will get at SEND Support?</p>	<p>It's a great idea to reach out to your SENDCo and request a copy of the individual support plan. This will give you a clear understanding of the support in place. Additionally, discussing this during the termly meetings can be very helpful. These meetings are a perfect opportunity to talk about any concerns and ensure that the support is tailored to meet your child's needs.</p>	<p><u>SEND Support in Mainstream Schools - Family Hub</u> (torbayfamilyhub.org.uk)</p>
<p>Does my child/young person need a diagnosis to get SEND support?</p>	<p>Every child deserves to be recognised and supported, regardless of whether they have a formal diagnosis. Special Educational Needs (SEN) is about understanding and addressing each child's unique needs and providing the necessary support to help them thrive.</p> <p>Teachers are dedicated to adapting their teaching methods to cater to the diverse needs of all students in their classrooms. This practice, known as 'differentiation,' ensures that every child can access the curriculum in a way that works best for them.</p> <p>For children who require additional support beyond differentiation, schools are committed to providing the necessary resources and adjustments. Sometimes, a disability that creates barriers to learning can be the catalyst for this extra support.</p>	<p><u>Torbay's Graduated Response - Family Hub</u> (torbayfamilyhub.org.uk)</p>

	<p>It's important to remember that SEND isn't solely about academic performance. Many children face different challenges that can impact their learning experience. Schools work diligently to identify these needs and make every effort to ensure that children with SEND receive the appropriate support.</p> <p>When a child isn't making the expected progress, schools can refer them to specialist education or health services for further advice and assistance. This collaborative approach helps ensure that every child can succeed.</p>	
	The Family Hub site has lots of useful information for parents and carers that may be useful to signpost at the annual review.	Home - Family Hub (torbayfamilyhub.org.uk)
Annual Reviews		
How do I know when my child/young person's annual review will be	Your child's or young person's annual review will take place around the same time each year, based on the date the decision letter was sent out. We adhere to the timelines set in the Code of Practice to ensure everything is handled properly.	Annual Review of an EHCP - Family Hub
Can I see the annual review papers before the meeting so I can prepare?	Yes. Absolutely. You should receive a copy of all the annual review paperwork no less than two weeks before the meeting.	Annual Review of an EHCP - Family Hub
Can I bring someone with me, or invite a professional to the review meeting?	Yes. You can bring a person to support you and invite any professionals that may be working with your child/young person out of school. Please be sure to let the school know if you are, so they have enough chairs at the meeting.	Annual Review of an EHCP - Family Hub
How long will the review meeting be?	The length of reviews varies, but they're usually around an hour and a half.	Annual Review of an EHCP - Family Hub

<p>Who should be invited to the meeting?</p>	<p>Reviews must be undertaken in partnership with the child and their parent or the young person, and must take account of their views, wishes and feelings, including their right to request a Personal Budget.</p> <p>Professionals across education, health and social care must also be invited. A representative from the Local Authority and all professionals involved must be invited to the annual review even if they are unable to attend. It is good practice to send out the invites, along with the annual review documents at least 3 weeks prior to the date of the meeting.</p>	<p><u>Annual Review of an EHCP - Family Hub</u></p>
<p>What do I do if I am moving house out of the area?</p>	<p>If you are moving out of Torbay, you must let the Local Authority know as soon as possible at ehcp@torbay.gov.uk. Please let us know your new address so we can ensure your child/young person's EHCP is transferred to the new Local Authority.</p>	
<p>My child/young person is looked after. Can we have the annual review and PEP at the same time?</p>	<p>For-children who are cared for the annual review should, if possible and appropriate, coincide with one of the reviews in their Care Plan and in particular the personal education plan (PEP) element of the Care Plan.</p>	
<p>Transitions</p>		
<p>My child is in Year 6, when should the year 6 review be done in preparation for transition to secondary School?</p>	<p>The year 6 reviews must be completed and emailed into the local authority by the 19th of December at the latest. They can be done prior to this. This is so that the final EHCPs can be issued by February 14th.</p> <p>These will then be used for consults for secondary school, so our children really benefit from these reviews being as detailed as possible to give them the best chance of a positive start to secondary school.</p>	

<p>My young person is in Year 11, when must you have a year 11 review done in preparation for transition to post 16?</p>	<p>The year 11 reviews must be completed by February 3rd at the latest. They can be done prior to this. This is so that the final EHCP can be issued by March 31st.</p> <p>These will then be used for consults for post 16 provisions, so our young people really benefit from these reviews being as detailed as possible to give them the best chance of a positive start to their post 16 choices.</p>	
<p>My child is very anxious about their transition to the next key stage. What can I do?</p>	<p>Contact your SENDCo to discuss the best ways to support your child. This might include arranging additional visits to the secondary school before their start date or setting up meetings with a key teacher or Teaching Assistant to help them feel more comfortable.</p> <p>There are lots of good ideas of how to support your child/young person on the Family Hub.</p>	<p><u>Transition - moving on from Primary School to Secondary School for a child with SEND - Family Hub</u> (torbayfamilyhub.org.uk)</p>
Funding		
<p>How can I find out what funding my child or young person has been allocated?</p>	<p>The school are notified of the funding and will discuss this with the Local Authority if they need to. You can ask your SENDCo for this information.</p>	
<p>What is a personal budget?</p>	<p>A very small number of children and young people need additional and individual support to enable them to access learning activities, to be included within their education setting and to achieve well. These children and young people will have an Education, Health and Care Plan.</p> <p>A Personal Budget for SEND is a sum of funding for a child or young person with an Education, Health and Care Plan. You, as a parent or young person, can use it to get the money you need, as long as it is in the EHCP. You can discuss how it could be used with your SEND Officer and decide how you want the funding managed. The money will come out of your child or young person's EHCP.</p>	<p><u>Annual Review of an EHCP - Family Hub</u></p> <p><u>Personal-budget-quick-guide-25.pdf</u></p>

	Talk to your SEND Officer or school / college about ideas you may have to see if they may be possible.	
<p>The school have said that they do not have funding to support my child/young person. What can I do?</p>	<p>The SEND Code of Practice (6.97) says:</p> <p>It is for schools, as part of their normal budget planning, to determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEN. The SENCO, headteacher and governing body or proprietor should establish a clear picture of the resources that are available to the school. They should consider their strategic approach to meeting SEN in the context of the total resources available, including any resources targeted at particular groups, such as the pupil premium.</p> <p>Schools are committed to identifying and assessing each child's needs and then planning the necessary support in a continuous cycle known as assess-plan-do-review. When a school identifies what a child needs, they work hard to put this support in place.</p> <p>As a parent, you have the right to ask your school how it uses its SEN budget to support your child and ensure they have the resources they need. If your child isn't making progress despite the support provided, or if the school requires additional help from the local authority, an Education, Health & Care (EHC) needs assessment might be the next step.</p> <p>You have the right to request an EHC needs assessment directly with the local authority, ensuring your child gets the comprehensive support they deserve.</p>	

Key Contacts

TEAM	Email
SEND Monitoring Team	sendmonitoring@torbay.gov.uk
Duty Team	ehcp@torbay.gov.uk
SENDIASS	sendiass@torbay.gov.uk