

School Level High Needs Support Fund (Non-EHCP)

In Sheffield we have historically provided high needs funding to support pupils in mainstream provision who do and don't have EHC Plans.

From September 2025 the funding for all pupils with EHC Plans will move to the banded funding model.

We also have a new funding model to support pupils in mainstream schools who don't have EHC Plans.

Key information

We have identified an additional £2.5 million funding allocation for mainstream schools to support with high needs SEND in the for pupils who don't have EHC Plans. This funding will be allocated to mainstream schools using a funding formula which is explained below.

The funding will be paid to schools directly from the Local Authority in two payments. Schools will receive 7/12 of the money in September 2025 and the remaining 5/12 in April 2026.

What is the funding for?

The funding must be used within the school to support the needs of learners with high needs SEND.

The funding is not allocated to any specific named pupils. It is a block of funding that the school can distribute how it wishes to meet the needs of learners with high needs SEND.

How have the amounts been calculated?

We have used three factors to calculate the funding allocation for each school. This is to ensure that we make a fair allocation based on the information that we have.

1. The SSG level 4 and 5 numbers for pupils without EHC Plans. This is from the January 2024 SSG grid. This represents 60% of the funding allocation.
2. The schools IDACI information. IDACI stands for Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index and is a good indicator of levels of SEND in a school. This represents 40% of the funding allocation.
3. A minimum funding guarantee of £10,000 for standalone infant schools and Nursery Infant schools.

We have used the combination of factors above as it represents a fair allocation of funding across the city. There are strengths and limitations to each individual dataset and combining them mitigates some of these limitations.

We will receive updated information on the above datasets in the next year and will review these in line with other factors to consider the funding model for 2026/27.

If you have any questions about the above, please contact sendfundingreview@sheffield.gov.uk.