

The Council's policy for Special Educational Needs and the SEN Strategic Plan set out the principles and arrangements to ensure that children's special educational needs are met. This includes ensuring that their needs are identified and assessed as early as possible and that they have access to educational experiences that are broad, balanced, differentiated and appropriate to their individual needs. The LEA is committed to enabling children to have their needs met in schools and settings as close to their home as possible. It seeks to provide parents/carers and their children with greater choice, flexibility and opportunities within the education system in the borough. It also recognises the importance of pupil and parental involvement in all aspects of planning, delivery and review of their learning.

The Special Educational Needs Panel:

The Special Educational Needs Panel, on behalf of the LEA, manages the admission arrangements for pupils with statements. Parents/carers are requested to express a preference for a particular school for their child providing that:

- The school is suitable for the child's age, ability and aptitude and the special educational needs set out in part 2 of the statement
- The child's attendance is not incompatible with the efficient education of other children in the school
- The placement is an effective use of the LEA's resources

The headteacher and chair of governors are then consulted and parents/carers are informed of the LEA's decision. The LEA must name the preferred school unless it is incompatible with the provision of efficient education at the school for other children and there are no reasonable steps that the LEA or school could take to prevent the incompatibility.

Where the LEA decides that the final statement will not name the parent's first choice of school, the LEA will explain the decision in writing to the parents/carers, and will inform them of their right of appeal to the SEN and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) and the time limits for lodging an appeal. The LEA will also provide parents/carers with information on the parent partnership scheme and the disagreement resolution service.

