



Supporting children with SEND in Cheshire East

A short guide for parents about the national SEND Proposals in the Schools White Paper - April 2026

First and most importantly

Nothing is changing right now in Cheshire East. The government's SEND proposals are only at the [consultation](#) stage, and local areas (including Cheshire East) have not been asked to make any changes at this point.

The consultation is national, and the purpose is for parents, schools, young people and professionals to give their views before any decisions are made.

Why are changes being proposed?

Families across the country have said the SEND system can be confusing and inconsistent. The government's proposals aim to create a system that is:

- Early - support offered sooner, without long waits.
- Local - more help available closer to home
- Fair - clearer national standards
- Effective - support based on evidence
- Shared - education, health and care working with families

These principles are guiding discussions, but legislation and practice is not changing yet.

What are the key ideas being consulted on?

The consultation describes a possible future system where:

- **All schools offer stronger everyday support**

Training, more specialist input and calmer, more inclusive environments in every setting.

- **Every child with SEND would have an Individual Support Plan (ISP)**

A digital shared plan showing needs, support and outcomes- developed with parents.

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- **Three levels of support could be used flexibly**

Targeted - small group work or adjustments

Targeted Plus - specialist involvement (e.g. Speech and Language, EPs)

Specialist - for the most complex needs, including EHCPs

- **EHCPs would stay**

EHCPs will remain for children who need them, with digital versions planned in future. No changes to how EHCPs work will begin before 2030.

- **Inclusion Bases in schools**

Over time, mainstream schools could have specialist spaces for regulation, small group work or adapted learning.

What does this mean for families in Cheshire East right now?

- **No changes to your child's support**

Your child's current support SEND Support arrangements or EHCP remain exactly the same

- **No changes to specialist placements**

Children in specialist schools will remain in these placements.

- **Local processes are unchanged**

Cheshire East continues with the current SEND Code of Practice , existing duties, rights of appeal and support pathways.

The consultation is country-wide and your views matter, you can have your say [here](#). Parents are encouraged to contribute. No changes in law will be implemented until the government reviews responses and publishes firm decisions.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Will my child lose their EHCP?** No. EHCPs remain. Any national transition to digital EHCPs would not begin until 2029 and only when a child moves key stage.
2. **Will children be forced into mainstream?** No. Children who need specialist provision will continue to receive it.
3. **Are teachers going to be trained?** Yes, the national proposal includes large-scale training for staff to strengthen inclusive teaching.

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4. When will any of these changes happen? Not before 2029-2030 nationally, and only after the current 2026 consultation.

Reassurance for Cheshire East families

- Your child's support is secure
- No legal duties are changing yet
- No local processes are being altered
- Any national changes to legal rights will not be implemented in the early stages of the reforms. However, the implementation of initiatives such as 'Experts at Hand' will begin sooner than this.
- You will be informed as changes are made to the system both locally and nationally.

Cheshire East's priority remains exactly the same...

To work alongside families so children and young people with SEND can learn, thrive and feel supported.

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