

# LEWISHAM PARENT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

## SCHOOL ACTION & SCHOOL ACTION PLUS

School Action and School Action Plus are formal terms used to describe the levels of extra help that are given when a school decides that a child has special educational needs (SEN) and needs extra or different help.

This leaflet will look at these terms in more detail and explain some of the ways that the school might give that extra or different help to your child.

### **School Action**

School Action is when your child's school decides (identifies) that your child has special educational needs (SEN) and needs extra or different help from that usually given in the classroom.

This is likely to be because your child:

- Is making little or no progress
- Has difficulty with literacy or numeracy
- Has emotional or behavioural difficulties
- Has communication difficulties; or
- Has sensory or physical difficulties

**'The school has a duty to inform the child's parents that special educational provision is being made for the child because the child has SEN.'**

***Section 317A, Education Act 1996***

The school will discuss with you the best ways in which to support your child to make progress. The class teacher should be involved in these discussions, along with the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). They will collect as much information as possible about your child.

The SENCO will assess your child's strengths and weaknesses, plan future support and arrange for regular reviews to be made. He or she should also draw up an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for your child. You should also be invited to this part of the process

Some of the ways the school might help:

- Changing the way lessons are planned and delivered
- Matching activities to the ability of your child
- Adapting learning materials such as work sheets, books and activities to suit your child's needs
- Small group work or some individual support
- Setting learning or behavioural targets
- Giving you ideas on how you can help your child at home.

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### **School Action Plus**

If your child does not make enough progress, the school should then talk to you about asking for advice from other people outside the school to help your child.

They might ask for advice or support from:

- Specialist teacher
- Educational Psychologist
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Health Professionals
- Sensory Specialist
- Behaviour Specialist

These specialists will look at your child's records to get a full picture of their progress, the strategies already used by the school and targets that have been set and achieved.

Together with the school and with you the specialists will develop a plan for your child.

This may include:

- Regular advice to teachers working with your child
- Training for staff to support your child
- Teaching support
- Equipment and teaching materials
- Information Technology
- Specialist assessment

Any extra help should, as far as possible, be in the normal classroom setting.

The plan will be recorded in a new IEP, which will be monitored and reviewed regularly. Your child's teacher will be responsible for making sure the plan is put into action in the classroom.

### **Beyond School Action Plus**

For most children the support given at School Action or School Action Plus is enough to help them progress. For a few children this is not the case. The school will then discuss with you what further support may be available from the Local Authority (LA) by requesting a statutory assessment.

The LA will need to know that all other alternatives have been tried and that over a period of time the child has made little or no progress.

**You** also have a right to ask the LA for a statutory assessment.

## **Further information**

### **Special Education Needs Code of Practice 2001**

To obtain a copy telephone: 0845 60 222 60 Ref: DfES 581/2001

**Parent Partnership:** Independent information, advice and support for parents of children with Special Educational Needs. Contact details below