Making sense of SEND
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**AAC**  
Alternative Augmentative Communication

**Academy**  
A state funded school in England which receives its funding primarily directly from and is owned and controlled by central government, not a local authority. May also be known as Free School or Studio School.

**ADD**  
Attention Deficit Disorder.

**ADHD**  
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

**Advice**  
Written reports from parents, teachers and other professionals on a pupil’s special educational needs.

**Advocacy**  
Is a process of supporting and enabling people to: Express their views and concerns. Access information and services. Defend and promote their rights and responsibilities.

**ASD**  
Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

**ARO**  
Assessment & Review Officer - works for LA to support the process and write EHCP

**‘Assess’, ‘Plan’, ‘Do’ and ‘Review’**  
Part of SEN Support ‘Assess’, ‘Plan’, ‘Do’ and ‘Review’ is a four-stage cycle during which actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the child or young person’s needs and what supports them in making good progress and securing good outcomes.

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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>BSL</td>
<td>British Sign Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAF</td>
<td>Common Assessment Framework. A method of assessment which can be used by social services, health or education. It is non-statutory, i.e. it does not replace statutory assessment.</td>
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<td>CAMHS</td>
<td>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services</td>
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<td>Care plan</td>
<td>A record of the health and/or social care services being provided to a child or young person.</td>
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<td>CCG</td>
<td>Clinical Commissioning Group. This is an NHS organisation which brings together local GPs and health professionals to take on commissioning responsibilities for local health services. A CCG plans and arranges the delivery of the health care provision for people in its area.</td>
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<td>CDC</td>
<td>Council for Disabled Children.</td>
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<td>CDC</td>
<td>Child Development Centre – the CDC has a specialist team who work with children with a range of developmental difficulties e.g. speech and language, physiotherapy, occupational therapy.</td>
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<td>CHC</td>
<td>Continuing Health Care.</td>
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<td>CIN</td>
<td>Child In Need.</td>
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<td>C &amp; I</td>
<td>Communication and Interaction.</td>
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C & L  
Cognition and Learning.

Code or CoP  

CP  
Cerebral Palsy. Physical impairment that affects movement. People with CP may have mobility problems which vary from barely noticeable to extremely severe. Those with CP may also have sight, hearing, speech, perception and learning difficulties. Between a quarter and a third of children and adolescents with CP, and about a tenth of adults, are also affected by epilepsy.

CP  
Clinical Psychologist.

CSDPA  
The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. This is one of the main Acts of Parliament which entitle disabled people to social care.

DCS  
Disabled Children’s Services.

DfE  
Department for Education.

Direct Payments  
Payments made in lieu of services being provided. Meaning Direct Payments may be available for health care, social care and for the special educational provision in an EHC plan.

DLA  
Disability Living Allowance – is a benefit paid to children under 16 years that helps with the extra costs that disabled people face as a result of their disabilities. DLA is not means-tested, and it is tax free.

DMO  
Designated Medical Officer—is the doctor who has special responsibilities for children with special educational needs. These responsibilities include collecting all the health reports for a statutory assessment.

EA 1996  
Education Act 1996.

EAL  
English as an Additional Language – used to describe people whose first language is not English.

Early Years Provider  
A provider of early education places for children under five. This can include state funded and private nurseries.

EFA  
Education Funding Agency.  
An arm of the Department for Education. It allocates funding to local authorities for maintained schools and voluntary aided schools. It is also responsible for funding and monitoring academies.

EHC needs assessment  
An assessment of the education, health care and social care needs of a child or young person conducted by a local authority under the Children and Families Act 2014.

EHCAR  
Education and Health Care Plan Assessment Request. The paperwork completed by schools or parents to request an EHC assessment.

EHCP  
An education, health and care plan as defined in section 37 (2) of the Children and Families Act 2014.

EHRC  
Equality and Human Rights Commission.
**EMS**

Enhanced Mainstream School – These schools specialise in working with children with difficulties in specific areas i.e. cognition and learning (C&L), social, emotional and mental health (SEMH), communication and interaction (C&I). SEMH EMS provision is only offered to Primary Schools. PRS try to cover Secondary Schools.

**Enhanced Mainstream Teacher**

A specialist teacher trained to a high level to work with children with difficulty in specific areas.

**EP**

Educational Psychologist.

**EqA or EQA**

The Equality Act 2010.

**EYFS**

The Early Years Foundation Stage. A statutory framework which covers children both in pre-school settings and in reception classes up to their fifth birthday.

**FE**

Further Education. The FE sector in England includes further education colleges, sixth form colleges, specialist colleges and adult education institutes. It does not include universities.

**FSW / FOW**

Family Support Worker/Family Outreach Worker – Support families within the home with a wide variety of issues usually part of the Prevention Service.

**HI**

Hearing Impairment.

**Home authority**

This usually means the local authority in which a child or young person normally lives (and which therefore has the responsibility to the child or young person under the Children & Families Act 2014).

**ICD-10**

Is the 10th revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD), a medical classification list by the World Health Organization (WHO) used to diagnosis some health problems.

**IEP**

Individual Education Plan. A plan which sets out the support a child is receiving in their school or other setting. There is no longer a specific requirement for children with SEN to have a plan called an IEP under the Code but children with SEN may still have IEPs.

**IES**

Inclusive Education Service. The IES consists of a range of specialist support and provision delivered by highly qualified and experienced staff who support the work of schools with children and young people who have SEND.

**IPM**

Individual Provision Map.

**Inclusion Passport**

Used in some schools to target more support to a child with SEN and additional needs. An inclusion passport goes with the child throughout their time in education.

**Independent School**

A school that is not maintained by a local authority

**Independent supporter (IS)**

A person recruited locally by a voluntary or community sector organisation to help families going through an EHC needs assessment and the process of developing an EHC plan.
**Keyworker**
Someone who provides children, young people and parents with a single point of contact to help make sure the support they receive is co-ordinated. A keyworker could be provided directly by a local authority or local health organisation, a school or college, or from a voluntary or private sector body.

**LA**
A **Local Authority** in England

**LAC**
**Looked After Child** – A child which is under the care of the local authority.

**LDS**
**Learning Disabilities Service.**

**Local Offer (LO)**
The **Local Offer**, published by every local authority, tells you what support is available for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and their families. It includes information about education, health and care provision. It also gives information about training, employment and independent living for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

**LSA**
**Learning Support Assistant**, also sometimes called **Teaching Assistant** (“TA”).

**Mainstream School**
State school which can meet the needs of most children.
Maintained school
Schools in England that are maintained by a local authority – any community, foundation or voluntary school, community special or foundation special school.

**Mediation**
A method of seeking to resolve disagreements by going to an independent mediator. Mediation must be offered to a parent or young person in relation to an EHC Plan. Mediation is not compulsory for the parent or young person but they will need to consider mediation before appealing the education parts of an EHC plan in most cases.

**MLD**
**Moderate Learning Difficulties/Disabilities.**

**MSI**
**Multi-sensory Impairment** – pupils with a combination of visual and hearing difficulties

**OCD**
**Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.**

**ODD**
**Oppositional Defiance Disorder.**

**Ofsted**
**Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills.** This is the body which inspects and regulates services which care for children and young people and those providing education and skills for learners of all ages.

**OT**
**Occupational Therapy/Occupational Therapist.**

**PALS**
**Patient Advice and Liaison Service**
– Confidential Advice and Support on Health related matters and complaints.

**PARO**
**Principal Assessment & Review Officer**—oversees the work of the ARO
**PCT**  
Primary Care Trust – Health Authority for each area.

**PDA**  
Pathological Demand Avoidance.

**PDD**  
Pervasive Developmental Disorder.

**Personal Budget**  
A **Personal Budget** is the notional amount of money which an LA has identified as necessary to secure the special educational provision in an EHC plan.

**PIP**  
Personal Independence Payment – is a benefit paid to people over 16 years that helps with the extra costs that disabled people face as a result of their disabilities. PIP is not means-tested, and it is tax free.

**PMLD**  
Profound and multiple learning disabilities.

**Portage**  
Home-based educational support for pre-school children with SEN

**PRU**  
Pupil Referral Unit – for children who need to be educated out of school, often because they have been excluded. They have the same legal status as schools in some respects but do not have to teach the national curriculum.

**Reasonable adjustments**  
**Reasonable adjustments** are changes schools and other settings are required to make which could include: changes to physical features – for example, creating a ramp so that students can enter a classroom or providing extra support and aids (such as specialist teachers or equipment).

**SEMH**  
Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

**SEN**  
Special educational needs.

**SEND Code of Practice**  
This is the statutory guidance that supports Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014. It tells local authorities, early year’s settings, schools, colleges, health and social care providers and others what they must and should do to identify, assess and provide for children and young people with SEN or disabilities.

**SENCo**  
Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator – the teacher with responsibility for co-ordinating special help for children with SEN at their school.

**SEND**  
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

**SEND Caseworker**  
Works for the LA to support parents through the process of EHCP assessment and write EHCP’s to present to Panel for decision making

**SENDIASS**  
Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service; every local authority must have one. They provide independent advice and support to parents about SEN.

**SEP**  
Special educational provision.

**SEN Support**  
SEN support includes any help for children and young people with SEN that is additional to or different from the support generally made for other children of the same age. The purpose
of SEN support is to help children achieve the outcomes or learning objectives that have been set for them by the school. Schools should involve parents in this process. SEN support replaces Early Years Action/Action Plus and School Action/Action Plus.

**SLD**
Severe Learning Difficulty/Severe Learning Disability.

**SPA Referral**
Single Point of Access referral to Inclusive Education Service (IES)

**SpLD**
Specific Learning Difficulty.

**SLT or SALT**
Speech and Language Therapy/Speech and Language Therapist.

**SMART (Targets)**
Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timed – This is in relation to outcomes for children/young people all targets should be SMART.

**Special school**
A school which is specifically organised to make special educational provision for pupils with SEN

**SPM Team**
Part of IES offering support to schools for children with Sensory, Physical and Medical needs.

**Support Plan**
The school will work with parents and carers to talk about the needs of their child and how these can be met. This information is used to develop an SEN support plan which will be reviewed on a termly basis to check progress (some schools use Inclusion Passports see above)

**TA**
Teaching Assistant also sometimes called Learning Support Assistant (LSA).

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**TAC**
Team Around the Child – These are meetings which are held with all agencies involved present to help meet the needs of the child.

**UPN**
Unique Pupil Reference Number – issued to all school age children.

**UTC**
University Technical College which offers academic and technical education to secondary school pupils (a type of Academy)

**VI**
Visual Impairment.
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