

Parents

How to..... Support Additional Needs

Jesus welcomed everyone, and frequently prioritised caring for those who had the greatest needs. He included everyone and excluded no one. It's really good, therefore, that our education system in Scotland is extremely inclusive: there is a presumption, in fact, that *all* children attend mainstream schools.



As a parent of a child or young person with additional needs, it is really important to build a strong relationship with your child's school. Face-to-face meetings with relevant staff can be really important so that you can explore how best to work together.

Remember that the terms “additional support needs”/ “additional support for learning”¹ don't just apply to children and young people with long-term learning difficulties or disabilities. Children and young people can need support for many other reasons²

Some children need only a small amount of support for a short time. Other children may need a lot of support for a longer period of time.³

As a parent of a child or young person with additional needs, you're also uniquely placed to explore with your church how they can develop their support for people with additional needs.

- Does your church realise how it can adapt to children and young people with additional support needs /learning difficulties and so meet their needs?
- Can your church develop ministries which will reach out to people of all ages in the community with disabilities /additional needs?
- Approximately 20% of pupils in your local schools have additional support needs. How can your church support them? For example, volunteers from a local church can help significantly by offering their time to your local school. It can make all the difference if an adult is available to support a pupil



¹ One of the most significant pieces of legislation regarding Additional Support Needs is the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended) which created the term 'additional support needs'. (Additional Support Needs (ASN) replaced the old term 'special educational needs (SEN)').

² e.g.: Difficulty in controlling behavior; Missing school because of an illness or long-term condition; Having a physical disability; Being a young carer; Communication difficulties; Being particularly able; Attending a number of different schools; Being looked after or in care; Having a difficult family situation; Suffering a bereavement; Being bullied

³ <http://enquire.org.uk/blog/understanding-the-basics/understanding-the-basics-1-what-is-additional-support-for-learning>.

individually (using approaches directed by the school, of course) for an hour or so twice a week over a period of time.

Frequently asked Questions

How is support provided for children and young people with additional support needs?

✓ Additional support for children and young people can be provided in a number of different ways. Support is usually provided in class, but there are also many other ways that help can be given.⁴ Some of these demand significant extra resources/time, so volunteers (working under the teacher's direction) can make a big difference.



How many children and young people have additional support needs?

✓ Approximately 20% of school pupils have additional support needs. In 2015, 153,190 pupils (22.5 per cent of all pupils) had additional support needs.

.....so how well are the spiritual development needs of pupils with ASN being met? If your minister/pastor is a school chaplain, can he/she explore with the school leadership how to help meet these needs?

Do most children and young people with ASN attend mainstream school?



✓ 95 % of children and young people with ASN attend their local school. They make up 21.7 per cent of mainstream school pupils. In 2015 this meant that 146,240 pupils with ASN attended mainstream schools.⁵

✓ Within mainstream schools, specialist provision is through ASN bases or Learning Centres. (The name used varies from one local authority to another.)

✓ Some local authorities have free standing special schools. ***Being a school chaplain in such schools can be a real privilege. Is this something that your minister/pastor might consider?***

Further Information

We will be publishing further information on additional support needs. Please [contact us](#) if you would like to be kept up to date.

⁴ Short bursts of intensive work, 1 to 1 or in a group, with either a teacher or learning support assistant/ Working with a child on a specific learning programme/ Adapting the classroom environment to suit a child's needs/ Providing coping strategies or a quiet space to help children with their behaviour/ A teacher adapting how he or she teaches a lesson/ Adapting learning materials to a child's needs/ Using special equipment or IT.

Source: **Enquire** (the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning) <http://enquire.org.uk/>

⁵ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/SchoolEducation/TrendSpecialEducation>