

## What are the Specific SEN Categories in the SEN Register?

### 1. COGNITION AND LEARNING

Dyslexia/ Specific Learning Difficulty,  
Dyscalculia, Moderate Learning Difficulties,  
Severe Learning Difficulties, Profound &  
Multiple Learning Difficulties

### 2. SOCIAL, BEHAVIOURAL, EMOTIONAL AND WELL-BEING

Social and Behavioural Difficulties, Emotional  
and Well-being Difficulties, Severe  
Challenging Behaviour associated with SLD/PMLD

### 3. SPEECH , LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION NEEDS

Developmental Language Disorder, Language  
Disorder associated with a differentiating  
biomedical condition , Communication and  
Social Interaction Difficulties

### 4. SENSORY

Blind, Partially Sighted, Severe/Profound  
Hearing Impairment, Mild/Moderate Hearing  
Impairment , Multi-sensory Impairment

### 5. PHYSICAL NEEDS

Physical

[www.education-ni.gov.uk](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk) SEN and Medical  
Categories –Guidance for Schools

## Medical Diagnosis Categories in the Medical Register.

Epilepsy

Asthma

Diabetes

Anaphylaxis

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)/ Attention  
Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Dyspraxia/Developmental Co-ordination  
Disorder (DCD)

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

Global Developmental Delay

Down's Syndrome

Complex Healthcare Needs

Anxiety Disorders

Depression

Eating Disorders

Psychosis

Other Mental disorder

Cerebral Palsy

Spina Bifida—with Hydrocephalus

Spina Bifida—without Hydrocephalus

Muscular Dystrophy

Acquired Brain Injury

Visual Impairment

Hearing Impairment

Physical Disability

Other Medical Conditions/Syndromes



## SEN and Medical Categories

## Information for Schools

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SEND Implementation Team



[www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)

## Why is information recorded in categories ?

The Department of Education (DE) require common special educational needs (SEN) categories in order to provide accurate information about the numbers of pupils in Northern Ireland with different types of SEN for whom special educational provision is being made.

In the 1996 Education Order a pupil is described as having special educational needs if they have a *significantly greater difficulty* in learning than the majority of children their age which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

Special educational provision means educational provision which is *additional to*, or *otherwise different from*, the educational provision which children of a similar age receive in an ordinary school.

A child also has SEN if they have a *disability* that calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

Collecting and recording of standard information helps DE with SEN policy planning and identification of funding needs.

## How have DE changed the categories?

DE have introduced revised SEN categories and associated descriptors which all schools use when placing children on their SEN Register. The categories have been revised to ensure that the most appropriate category for SEN pupils is recorded on the School Information Management System (SIMS). In addition DE have introduced a new Medical Register which facilitates schools in their recording of medical diagnoses.

## Which Register records pupils with a medical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

Pupils with a diagnosis of ASD should now be recorded on the Medical Register and consideration given to the ASD medical description to ascertain if a particular SEN is applicable. Schools are precise when determining if a pupil with a medical diagnosis of ASD also has associated SEN and only those pupils who require special educational provision should be recorded on the SEN Register.

A pupil can be recorded on both the SEN Register and Medical Register if the pupil has both a medical need and also requires special educational provision.

## How do schools decide which SEN category to use?

Only pupils who have been placed on the SEN Register should be recorded. It is the school's decision to place a child on the SEN Register.

A pupil's placement on the SEN Register means that s/he has a special educational need that requires special educational provision to be made for them. Many pupils with SEN have more than one type of need. Schools record information on each pupil's primary SEN need, and where appropriate, secondary SEN need.

## How do schools decide which Medical category to use?

Most pupils with a medical diagnosis are able to attend school regularly and with some support, participate in everyday school activities. Unlike identifying learning difficulties, teachers or educational psychologists are **not qualified** for diagnosing a pupil's medical or physical condition. Schools record a pupil's medical condition on the medical register from evidence provided by the parent or forwarded to the school by the Education Authority (EA) or Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT).

A pupil with a medical diagnosis or a disability may or may not have a special educational need. What is key is does the pupil have a requirement for special educational provision to access the curriculum.