

From mountain to sea

Aberdeenshire's Approach to Meeting Additional Support Needs

A guide for parents and carers

Our Commitment

We want all children and young people in Aberdeenshire to learn in their local school and local community.

Your child's school will work with you to build a shared understanding of your child's needs and what supports will help them most.

Together, you will agree the right support to help your child feel safe, included and able to learn.

This guide is for parents and carers of children and young people who may need additional support with their learning. It explains the different types of support available and how decisions are made.

Universal Offer

All Aberdeenshire schools use inclusive approaches that support pupils with additional support needs. This is known as our Universal Offer.

You can find out more in our [Universal Offer to Children and Young People Leaflet](#)



Targeted Support

Most pupils have their needs met through everyday classroom support, but some need additional targeted support.

This targeted support might include:

- Individualised learning targets
- Individual or small group adult support
- Changes to the classroom or school environment
- Adapted timetables, for example a soft start or a sensory diet with access to sensory spaces.
- Support from an Additional Support for Learning Teacher
- Support with communication, for example Makaton
- Extra planning and support for transitions

Enhanced Provision

Some pupils may need a higher level of support to help them take part in learning. This support is known as Enhanced Provision.

Every school cluster has an Enhanced Provision primary and secondary school. Staff in these schools have specialised training and experience in supporting pupils with additional support needs.

For most primary aged pupils, Enhanced provision support is provided through outreach. This means your child remains in their own school, and Enhanced Provision staff come to them.

You can find more in our [Primary Enhanced Provision Outreach Support Overview Leaflet](#)



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A small number of pupils may attend an Enhanced Provision school full-time or part-time. This option is considered from Primary 3 onwards and provides more intensive, targeted support.

If it is felt that your child may benefit from Enhanced Provision support, your child's school will discuss this with you and if you are in agreement, a formal referral will be made to the Local ASN Forum. This is a multi-professional group which carefully considers all the information and decides whether Enhanced Provision is the most appropriate level of support for your child.

Complex Needs Provision

A very small number of pupils have significant and complex needs that require a higher level of specialist support.

A place in a Complex Needs Provision is usually explored only after careful consideration has been given to how your child's needs could be met within their local school.

If a referral for Complex Needs Provision is being considered, your child's school will discuss this with you first. If you are in agreement, a formal referral will be made to the Local ASN Forum.

The Local ASN Forum will carefully consider all the information provided by the school and other professionals involved and decide whether Complex Needs Provision is the most appropriate level of support for your child.

Your local Headteacher plays an important role in these discussions and will support you to understand the process and the outcome.



There are Complex Needs Provisions in 9 areas across Aberdeenshire:

- **Aboyne/Banchory:** Aboyne Primary and Academy
- **Alford:** Alford Primary and Academy
- **Banff:** Banff Primary and Academy
- **Ellon/Meldrum/Turriff:** Ellon Primary and Academy
- **Fraserburgh:** Westfield Special School and Sandhaven Primary
- **Huntly:** Gordon Primary and The Gordon Schools
- **Inverurie/Kemnay/Westhill:** St Andrews Special School
- **Laurencekirk/Portlethen/Stonehaven:** Carronhill Special School
- **Mintlaw/Peterhead:** Anna Ritchie Special School and Port Errol Primary

These are based either in a mainstream school or a stand-alone setting. Both types offer the same high level of targeted support.



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Support Services

Schools may also work with specialist services for advice, assessment and direct support.

These services include:

- [Specialist Technology Service \(ASPECTS\)](#)
- [Educational Psychology Service](#)
- [English as an Additional Language Service \(EAL\)](#)
- [School Counselling Service](#)
- [Sensory Support Service \(Hearing and Vision\)](#)



Contact

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's support, please contact your child's zoned local school.

School staff will be happy to work with you to ensure the right support is in place for your child.