

Wolverhampton

Special Educational Needs Inclusion Funding Guidance

What is the Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund?

The Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) is additional funding with the purpose of assisting Early Years providers to support the needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Local authorities are required to have Inclusion Funding available for all children with SEN eligible for universal funded hours or working parent entitlement [Early years entitlements: local authority funding operational guide 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

Eligibility Criteria

The SEN Code of Practice (2015) states that a child has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for other children or young people of the same age

Most children with additional needs will not require special resources or additional funding to be successfully integrated into settings; indeed, the majority of settings meet the additional needs of their children very well within the ordinarily available provision. Guidance on the Universal support offer within settings can be found [here](#).

Inclusion Funding is applicable for children with SEND attending settings within Wolverhampton, regardless of where they live.

How to apply

The provider must demonstrate how they have supported the child through the graduated approach prior to the application for funding [Wolverhampton Inclusive Schools for Everyone | City Of Wolverhampton Council](#)

- Providers must include a costed provision map, detailing how the funding is being used to support the child's SEN.
- Parents must agree with the referral.
- If a child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in place they will be unable to access to Inclusion funding.
- Providers request funding by completing the online application form and costed provision map <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/sen-inclusion-fundingdaf-online-application>
- All requests for specialist resource equipment must be under the advice of a therapist such as an Occupational Therapist/ Physiotherapist or a Specialist Teacher. This equipment will follow the child on transition.

Allocation of funding

- Inclusion funding applications are reviewed four times per year by a multi-agency panel (see Local Offer for Inclusion Panel Dates: <https://www.localofferwolves.co.uk/>) Applicants will be notified of the panel decision and should inform parents/carers of this decision.
- Inclusion Funding is allocated based on individual need and identified outcome up to a total of £1000 for 15 hours eligibility per term
- Funding is provided on a termly basis and a new application should be submitted each term.
- Providers are expected to inform the Special Needs Early Years Service in writing if a child receives an EHCP or ceases to attend during the period for which funding has been awarded.