

## Discrimination and special educational needs (SEN)

**A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which means they need extra support to learn.**

**A learning difficulty** is something that means a child finds it harder to learn than most other children of the same age.

*For example:*  
dyslexia, attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD).

**A disability** is a physical or mental condition which lasts for over a year and which makes it difficult to do day-to-day activities.

*For example:*  
deafness, mental illness, cerebral palsy.

**By law, schools have to make 'reasonable adjustments' for pupils who have a disability.**

### **Adjustments could include:**

- Making sure pupils who use wheelchairs can go anywhere on school grounds.
- Providing textbooks with bigger writing for visually impaired children.
- Dealing with behaviour related to a child's SEN in a slightly different way.

### *For example:*

A pupil with autism may need the school rules explained frequently and very clearly to ensure s/he understands.

If the pupil breaks a rule which has not been properly explained to her/him, automatic punishment would be wrong.

If you think that your child needs more support to learn, you should speak to her/his school about it. All schools have a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) who can help you.

For information and advice contact the Traveller Movement; telephone: 02076072002  
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