

EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Special Schools Area Planning Framework

Easy read guide



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1: Who are we?



- The Education Authority (EA) is responsible for education services in Northern Ireland including schools and support services.
- The EA's job is to ensure that children and young people's needs are being met.

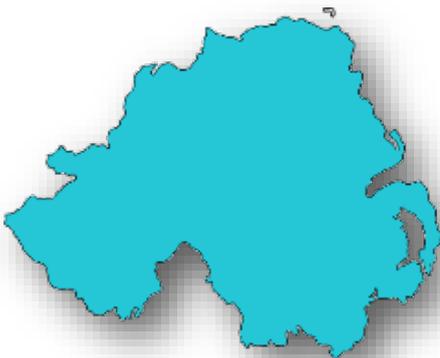


2: What do we want to do?



- The EA is asking for your views on the proposed changes to special schools.

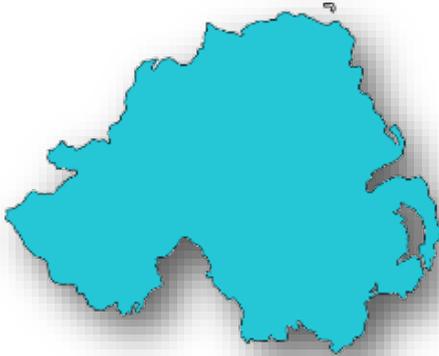
3: Background



- Children with special educational needs need more help with learning than many other children of the same age.
- There has been a steady rise in the number of pupils with special educational needs.
- Currently over 19,000 pupils in Northern Ireland have a Statement of Special Educational Need.
- Some pupils have their special educational needs met by going to a special school.
- Some pupils go to mainstream school and have their special educational needs met by having extra help or by going to specialist provisions.
- Specialist provisions are classes with smaller numbers of pupils and specialist teachers.



- Children are placed by the EA in a special schools as a result of a Statement of Special Educational Needs.



- There are currently 40 special schools in Northern Ireland.

- Not everyone has the same access to special schools.



- Some pupils have to travel far to attend their school.



- Some pupils have to change schools as they get older.



- The number of pupils within our special schools has continued to grow.

- The needs of these pupils in special schools have become more severe.



- This has placed increased stress on our special schools.

4: What do we intend to do?



- We want to provide pupils and parents with better access to special schools across Northern Ireland.
- We want to improve outcomes for children and young people attending special schools.
- We want to ensure there are enough special school places for now and for the future.
- We want to provide special schools for children and young people of all ages so that pupils can stay at the same school from when they start in nursery through to when they leave which could be when they are 19 years of age.
- We want to ensure that pupils don't have to travel long distances or times to go to school.
- We want to improve access to health therapies.
- We want to ensure special schools can meet a wide range of special educational needs.

5: Getting people's views



- To find out what people think about the proposals we are holding a public consultation. Everyone will be able to give us their opinions and comments on the proposals.



- We especially welcome the views of children and young people to make sure their voices are heard and their opinions taken into account.

6: How can I put forward my views and opinions?

You can...



- Complete an online questionnaire at [EA's consultation website](#)



- Attend an online consultation meeting being held by Area Planning and give your opinion.



- Write directly to the EA giving your opinion to Education Authority

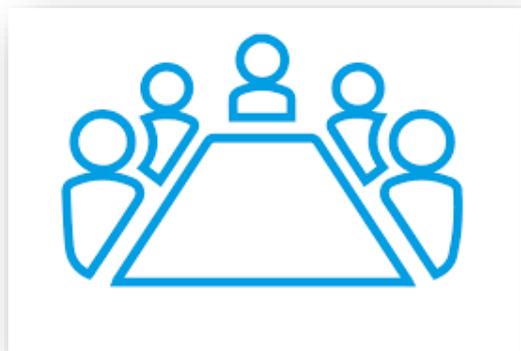
Or by Email to:

specialconsultation@eani.org.uk

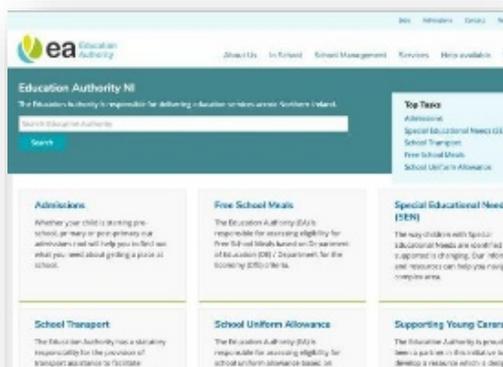
6: What happens next?



- The consultation will be running from Friday 16 October 2020 at 9am to Friday 11 December 2020, extended to Thursday 11 February 2021 and further extended to Monday 12 April 2021 at 5.00pm (document updated on 8 December 2020 and 20 January 2021).



- All your views will be sent to the Education Authority for consideration.



- A report on what everyone said will be made available to the public at www.eani.org.uk.

