

SEND EDUCATION JARGON BUSTER

A quick reference guide to common SEND terms and acronyms.



ACRONYM / TERM	DESCRIPTION
 SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
 SENCO	Special Educational Needs Coordinator.
 SEN Support	Support provided where a pupil has identified SEN.
 APDR	Assess, Plan, Do, Review – the graduated approach.
 EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan.
 EHCNA	Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment.
 ASC	Autism Spectrum Condition (preferred term).
 SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health.
 SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs.
 SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulty.
 MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulty.
 PMLD	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties.

ACRONYM / TERM	DESCRIPTION
 VI	Visually Impaired.
 HI	Hearing Impaired.
 SPD	Sensory Processing Disorder.
 SM	Selective Mutism (formerly known as elective mutism).
 OT	Occupational Therapist.
 SALT	Speech and Language Therapy/Therapist.
 TA	Teaching Assistant.
 EP	Educational Psychologist.
 OAP	Ordinarily Available Provision – support that is expected as part of a setting's core offer.
 ICB	Integrated Care Board.
 PFA	Preparation for Adulthood – equipping young people with skills for life beyond school.
NEW Experts at Hand	Specialist support and advice available in mainstream settings from September 2026.

GOOD TO KNOW

Using consistent, up-to-date SEND language helps us communicate clearly and ensures every child and young person receives the right support to thrive.



shardbusinessservices.co.uk



07714 651415



office@shardbusinessservices.co.uk