



This could include the following areas:

- Speech, Language and Communication Needs; including expressing themselves or understanding what others are saying.
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder, difficulties with social communication, making friends or relating to adults.

What is a speech and language disorder?

Pupils with speech, language and communication needs cover the whole ability range.

Pupils with SLCN may have difficulty in:

- Understanding and/or making others understand information through spoken language.
- Their learning of speech and language skills may be significantly behind their peers.
- Their speech may be difficult for others to understand.

Pupils with language impairments:

- Find it hard to understand and/or use words in context.
- They may use words incorrectly, have a reduced vocabulary or find it hard to recall words and express ideas.
- They may also hear or see a word but not be able to understand its meaning. Or they may have trouble getting others to understand what they are trying to say.

What is Autistic Spectrum Disorder?

The spectrum includes Asperger Syndrome, high-functioning autism and autism.

Children with ASD have a difficulty in making sense of the world in the way others do. They will typically have:

- Difficulty with social interaction
- Difficulty with communication skills
- Difficulty with imagination

In addition they may:

- Be easily distracted or upset by noise/light/touch
- Have problems with sensory experiences
- Have co-ordination difficulties (Dyspraxia)
- Have fine motor difficulties

Such children may have high levels of skill or knowledge in one specific area e.g. good memory skills, good visual skills, but difficulty in many other areas.

Children with ASD may have moderate to severe learning difficulties. Children with severe autism are likely to be identified at the pre-school stage and have their needs addressed early.

Literacy and Numeracy

This could include the following areas:

- Dyslexia (reading and writing)
- Dyscalculia (maths)
- Dyspraxia (co-ordination)
- Dysgraphia (writing)

What is Dyslexia?

The word 'dyslexia' is originally *Greek* and means "difficulty with words or language"

Pupils with dyslexia may have particular difficulties in learning to read, write, spell or use numbers. Their performance in these areas is likely to be below their performance in other areas. These children may quickly gain skills in some subjects but not in others.

Pupils may also have problems with short-term memory, with organisation skills and with co-ordination. Dyslexia covers the whole ability range and the difficulty may vary from mild to severe.

What is Dyscalculia?

The word 'dyscalculia' comes from the *Greek* words "dys" meaning "difficulty with" and "calculare" which means "to count".

Pupils with dyscalculia have difficulty in acquiring mathematical skills. Pupils may have difficulty understanding basic number concepts, lack basic understanding about numbers and have problems learning number facts and procedures.

What is Dyspraxia?

The word *Dyspraxia* comes from the *Greek* words "dys" meaning "difficulty with" and the word "praxis", meaning "acting or doing".

Dyspraxia is an impairment or immaturity of the organisation of movement. Associated with this there may be problems of language, perception and thought.

Pupils with dyspraxia have difficulty with organising their movement and often appear clumsy.

Pupils may have poor balance and co-ordination and may be hesitant in many actions (running, skipping, hopping, holding a pen or pencil, etc.). Their speech sounds may be immature and their language late to develop. They may also have poor awareness of body position.

What is Dysgraphia?

The word 'dysgraphia' comes from the *Greek* words "dys" meaning "difficulty with" and "graphein" meaning "to write". It is most often used to describe having a severe problem with handwriting.

Dysgraphia is also described as a difficulty in automatically remembering and mastering the sequence of muscle motor movements needed in writing letters and numbers. Dysgraphia can cause a person's writing to be distorted or incorrect. They may also have sequencing problems. In their writing, letters and numbers may appear backwards and out of order.

Behaviour and Social

This could include the following areas:

- Behavioural, Emotional & Social Difficulty
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- Emotional Literacy

What are Behavioural, Emotional & Social Difficulty?

The special education needs (SEN) code of practice describes BESD as a learning difficulty where children and young people demonstrate features of emotional and behavioural difficulties such as:

- Being withdrawn or isolated
- Displaying a disruptive and disturbing nature
- Being hyperactive and lacking concentration
- Having immature social skills
- Presenting challenging behaviours arising from other complex special needs

The term behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD) cover a wide range of special educational needs. This includes children and young people with emotional disorders and conduct disorders/hyperkinetic disorders - including attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD).

BESD also covers children and young people whose behavioural difficulties may be less obvious. For example - those with anxiety, who self-harm, have school phobia or depression and those whose behaviour or emotional wellbeing are seen to be deteriorating

What is Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder?

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a common condition that affects children and adolescents and can continue into adulthood for some.

Children with ADHD generally have problems paying attention or concentrating. They can't seem to follow directions and are easily bored or frustrated with tasks. They also tend to move constantly and are impulsive, not stopping to think before they act. These behaviours are generally common in children. But they occur more often than usual and are more severe in a child with ADHD.

The behaviours that are common with ADHD interfere with a child's ability to function at school and at home.

What is Oppositional Defiance Disorder?

Oppositional Defiance Disorder (ODD) is a disorder that is characterised by two different sets of problems. These are aggressiveness and a tendency to purposefully bother and irritate others. The main features observed are persistent disobedience and opposition to authority figures (such as parents, teachers or other adults). However, the basic rights of others are still respected.

Outward behaviour includes irritability, temper outbursts, frustration and intolerance. The child's self-esteem is usually low. Additional symptoms of anxiety and depression are also common.

What is Emotional Literacy?

Emotional Literacy is the term used to describe the ability to understand and express feelings.

Emotional Literacy involves having self-awareness and recognition of one's own feelings and knowing how to manage them, such as the ability to stay calm when angered or to reassure oneself when in doubt. It includes empathy, i.e. having sensitivity to the feelings of other people and it has been said that emotionally literate people are able to employ self-discipline in order to harness their emotions and identify and reach their personal goals.

Emotional Literacy also includes being able to recognise and adapt to the feelings of other people, whilst at the same time, learning how to manage and express one's own emotions effectively. This is helpful to developing good communication skills and the enhancement of our relationships with other people.

It is especially important that young children develop Emotional Literacy because they need to have recognition of their emotions in order to know how to behave, mature and ultimately be happy.

Further information is available from the SCE SEN Policy Annex A (see document below).

This could include the following areas:

- Physical Disability
- Hearing Impairment
- Visual Impairment
- Multi-Sensory Impairment

What is a Physical Disability (PD)?

There is a wide range of physical disabilities. Some are short-term and respond to treatment, others are permanent. Most children with physical needs will have been identified before school age. Some will have been disabled since birth while others may have become disabled, perhaps after an accident. Some physical disabilities will get worse with age and be life-limiting.

Children with severe physical disabilities are likely to require on-going support and equipment to access the school and curriculum. Their progress with learning may be affected.

Any pupil with a physical disability will require reasonable adjustments to ensure full inclusion in the school community.

Examples of physical disabilities include:

- Wheelchair users
- Amputees
- Cerebral Palsy
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Multiple Sclerosis

What is Hearing Impairment (HI)?

HI covers a range of difficulty. It may affect the use of one or both ears. Some may be mild and temporary hearing loss, such as that caused by Glue Ear. Other impairments may be more severe and some may result in permanent deafness. Most children with HI will have been identified before school age.

Where the HI is mild, schools may be able to make 'reasonable adjustments' to enable access to the curriculum without the need for special educational needs provision. But children with severe hearing impairment are likely to require support and equipment to access the curriculum. Sometimes adaptations to the classroom are needed. A significant hearing loss can hinder progress with learning.

What is a Visual Impairment?

VI covers a range of difficulty. It may affect the use of one or both eyes. Some impairments are mild and can be corrected through wearing glasses. Others are more severe and may cause partial or total blindness. Most children with Visual Needs will have been identified before school age.

Children with severe visual impairment are likely to require support and equipment to access school and the curriculum. A significant visual impairment can hinder progress with learning.

What is Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI)?

This is when children have impairments of both vision and hearing. They are likely to have been identified at pre-school stage and their needs will be met early.

Medical

Healthcare plans

A healthcare plan is a record of your child's medical needs at school and how they are going to be fulfilled. It's important that everyone is involved in drawing this up - you, your child (if appropriate), school staff and the school nurse. The plan should be reviewed at least annually as treatment or needs change. Healthcare plans are usually drawn up for the following medical conditions:

- Asthma
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Epilepsy
- Anaphylaxis (allergies)