

Types of education provision

Combined provision

Involves children attending more than one setting, usually on different days of the week, when this is thought to be the best way of meeting their educational needs. Individual arrangements will be made for each child.

Education by parents at home

This may be provided by the local education authority (LEA) in exceptional circumstances. Education by parents at home.

This is a parental choice, as it is for all children. If the child has a statement of special educational needs, the LEA must be satisfied that the child's special educational needs are being met.

Mainstream schools

Local schools serving children with and without disabilities.

Maintained (state) schools

These are run by LEAs.

Non-maintained (independent) schools

Independent schools require LEAs or parents to pay fees for the child's education. Many non-maintained special schools are run by charities.

Out-county placement

An out-county placement is when a child attends a school not run by their LEA - either a non-maintained school or a school run by another LEA. In either case, the child's own LEA must pay fees.

Residential schools

These provide accommodation for children during the school week or also at weekends. LEAs are most likely to agree to fund residential provision if children have severe or multiple special educational needs that cannot be met by day provision and support from other agencies. In some cases (for example, for children looked-after by the local authority) placements may be funded jointly by the LEA and health or social services.

Special schools

Normally only for children with statements of special educational needs, although sometimes children may be admitted before the statement is complete. Most are for children with particular types of disability. Increasingly, they act as resource centres supporting mainstream schools.

Specialist units

These units for children who are multi-sensory-impaired are attached to mainstream or (usually) special schools. Children may spend all their time in classes within the unit, or spend part of their time in other classes within the school, usually with support.

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