**SEN Exceptional Circumstance Funding – Explanatory Notes**

**When might a school apply for SEN Exceptional Circumstances Funding?**

All mainstream, free schools and academies are provided with resources to support those with additional needs, including pupils with SEN and disabilities. Most of these resources are determined by a local funding formula, discussed with the local school’s forum, which is also applied to local academies.

Sometimes, in mainstream schools, unexpected circumstances arise in relation to a child or young person with SEN. The criteria for exceptional funding is met where a child moves into Barnet from a different part of the country, or overseas, and they have a high level of special educational need which the school could not have predicted in advance. The school then has to make additional special educational provision which they could not have planned for.

In circumstances like this, a school would be expected to use any surplus they have to cope with such an exceptional situation. However, if the school does not have a surplus, the school might decide to apply for SEN Exceptional Circumstances Funding.

Exceptional Circumstance Funding is **not** for pupils who already have an EHC Plan and is only allocated for a period of one school term.

The application will be considered by the Complex Needs Panel.

**What information does Panel need?**

The school will need to fill in the Application to [SEN Funding for Exceptional Circumstances Form,](https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco_zone/documents/1102-sen-funding-exceptional-circumstances-application-form) which can be found on Barnet’s local offer.

The school will need to provide specific information as part of their application:

* The school **must not** be showing a surplus
* they should show that the need to make special educational provision was not predictable.
* a costed provision map should be included showing what support has been put in place at SEN support.
* the school should explain why they need extra funding and
* how much extra funding they think they need, what it will be used for and how progress will be monitored and reviewed.

**Funding for SEN**

All maintained mainstream schools, academies and free schools have funding in their budgets for SEN. This is made up from 3 different elements:

* Element 1:

The age weighted pupil unit (AWPU) – this is the basic funding which schools receive for every child. Some of this money is used to make general SEN provision.

* Element 2:

This is an identified figure within the delegated budget which each school receives annually. This is from a funding stream called the designated schools grant or schools block. This element of funding is used to fund the special educational provision for children on SEN support and a proportion of funding for children with statements/EHCP’s

Schools are expected to fund the first £6,000 of support for pupils with SEN from their Element 1 and Element 2 funding. This amount has been agreed nationally. This amount funds ‘ordinarily available’ provision. This is an average figure, as not all pupils with SEN require special educational provision costing £6,000. This money is used for pupils requiring special educational provision including, for example, the commissioning of external experts such as therapists to attend a school and provide support.

* Element 3:

 ‘Top up funding’

If a school requires funding that goes beyond the maximum £6,000 to provide a pupil’s special educational provision, then depending on the assessed needs of the pupil concerned, the LA will provide the required funding from the LA’s high needs block through an EHC Plan. So, for example, if a pupil’s Plan requires funding of £10,000 the school will receive an additional £4,000 as they already have £6,000 in their budget through Elements 1 and 2.

**In order to prevent the school using resources to make an application that will not be granted please ensure that all the above criteria are met before completing the Exceptional Circumstance Funding Form.**

To apply for SEN exceptional circumstances funding complete the relevant [application form.](https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco_zone/documents/1102-sen-funding-exceptional-circumstances-application-form)

Completed forms and documents should be submitted securely via post or e-mailed securely via Egress to SENAdmin@barnet.gov.uk. To send via USOFX please contact SEN Admin on 0208 359 7007 for account details. Please do not sent by email without additional security.