



# Guide to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014

RANi Need to Know Guides | SEN and Disability: Statute Law, Regulations, and Guidance Advisory sheet 6

*Updated: April 2025*

*(Also known as “SEN Regulations 2014”)*

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## What are the SEN Regulations 2014?

The **Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014** are a statutory instrument (SI 2014/1530) that support and supplement **Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014**. They set out the **procedural and practical rules** that local authorities, education settings, health bodies, and others must follow in relation to **SEN support and Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans**.

They are **legally binding** and are used alongside the **SEND Code of Practice 2015**, which provides guidance on how to comply with the law.

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# Structure of the Regulations

The SEN Regulations 2014 are divided into **five parts** and several **Schedules**:

Part	Title
Part 1	Introductory (definitions and commencement)
Part 2	Local Offer
Part 3	Education, Health and Care needs assessments and plans
Part 4	Appeals
Part 5	General provisions

There are also **11 Schedules** that provide more detailed procedural requirements, such as timescales and the content of documents.

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## Key Areas Covered in the Regulations

### 1. Local Offer (Regulations 53–57)

- Local authorities must publish a **Local Offer** of services and provision available to children and young people with SEN or disabilities.
- They must **consult with children, young people, and families**, and review the Local Offer regularly.
- The **content** of the Local Offer must include:
  - Education, health, and social care provision
  - Post-16 and preparation for adulthood services
  - Support available for transitions and personal budgets

*Linked to Section 30 of the Children and Families Act 2014.*

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## 2. Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments (Regulations 3–10)

- Sets out **who can request** an EHC needs assessment:
  - Parent
  - Young person (aged 16–25)
  - School or college
- Specifies **advice and information** that must be obtained:
  - From education, health, and social care professionals
  - Must include views of the child or young person and parent
- Requires that advice be **up-to-date, clear, and specifically focused on the child's needs**

Timeframe: LA has **six weeks** to decide whether to assess.

Schedule 1 sets out **who must give advice and in what form**.

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## 3. EHC Plans (Regulations 11–17)

- Specifies **what must be included** in an EHC plan (mirroring the Code of Practice):
  - Sections A–K (child's views, needs, provision, outcomes, placement, etc.)
- Requires **parents or young people to be consulted** about draft plans.
- Includes **rules for naming a school or institution** in Section I of an EHCP:
  - LA must consult the institution before naming it

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- Institution must respond within 15 days

Schedule 2: Format and content of EHC plans

Timeframe: Entire EHC needs assessment and plan process must be completed within **20 weeks**

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#### **4. Review and Reassessment (Regulations 18–20)**

- Requires annual reviews of EHC plans
- Sets out process for requesting a **re-assessment** of needs
- LAs must consult relevant professionals during reassessments
- Sets out duties around **transferring between phases of education** (e.g. Year 6–7)

Phase transfer review deadlines must be met:

- **31 March** for transfer to secondary school
  - **31 March** for post-16 transitions
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#### **5. Personal Budgets (Regulation 13 & Schedule 1)**

- Local authorities must provide **information** about personal budgets during the EHC process
  - Parents/young people can request a **personal budget** for elements of provision in the EHCP (especially Section F)
  - Regulations allow use of **direct payments** under certain conditions and with monitoring
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## 6. Appeals and Mediation (Regulations 31–39)

- Before making most appeals to the SEND Tribunal, parents/young people must obtain a **mediation certificate** (Reg 33)
- Information about **disagreement resolution and mediation services** must be made available
- Mediation must be **independent, free**, and arranged **within 30 days** of request

Regulation 38: Mediation is **optional** in Section I-only (placement) appeals.

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## 7. Children and Young People in Detention (Regulations 42–52)

- Ensures children and young people in custody or secure accommodation have access to:
  - EHC assessments
  - Continued education
  - Appropriate support
- The home local authority remains responsible for maintaining or amending the EHCP

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## 8. Transfer from Statements to EHCPs (Regulation 21–30)

*Note: Now obsolete – transitional period ended in April 2018*

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## Legal Importance of the Regulations

- The **SEND Code of Practice** explains how to implement the SEN Regulations 2014, but the regulations **have the force of law**.
  - If a local authority, school, or college does not follow the regulations, parents or young people can:
    - **Complain**
    - **Use mediation**
    - **Appeal to the SEND Tribunal**
    - **Seek judicial review**
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## Summary of Legal Duties and Timescales

Action	Regulation	Dutyholder	Timescale
Decide whether to carry out EHC needs assessment	Reg. 4	Local Authority	Within 6 weeks
Complete assessment and issue EHCP	Regs. 9–13	Local Authority	Within 20 weeks
Review EHCP annually	Reg. 18	Local Authority	Every 12 months
Provide mediation information	Reg. 33	LA or mediation service	Immediately or within 3 working days
Respond to school consultation (Section I)	Reg. 14	School or college	Within 15 days

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## Support and Resources

You can get further support from:

- **RANi** – Help with advice, support and impartial information
- **Local Offer** - Help with advice, support and impartial information
- **Full text of SEN Regulations 2014 (SI 2014/1530):**  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1530/contents/made>
- **SEND Code of Practice 2015:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>
- **SENDIASS** – Local impartial information and advice service for parents and young people [www.iasmanchester.org](http://www.iasmanchester.org)
- **IPSEA** – Independent Provider of Special Education Advice:  
[www.ipsea.org.uk](http://www.ipsea.org.uk)
- **Contact** – A national charity supporting families with disabled children:  
[www.contact.org.uk](http://www.contact.org.uk)

If you'd like help preparing your request or understanding your appeal options, RANi can provide guidance and templates.

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### Remember:

Always keep a copy of all correspondence you send, along with proof of postage or delivery. If you send documents by post, we recommend using a **signed-for** service. If sending by email, request a **read receipt** if possible.

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## Get in Touch

If you need more information or have a question, we're here to help.

**Email us:** [info@rani.org.uk](mailto:info@rani.org.uk)

Please include:

- Your name
- Your child's name
- Your child's date of birth
- Your query

Or, if you prefer, you can fill out our online **contact form** and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

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