



Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

## Mundford Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Godbold

St Leonard's Street, Mundford, Thetford, IP26 5ED

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Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a number of parents and carers enquire about how SEND funding works, particularly in relation to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and 1:1 support. We hope this letter helps to clarify the system and address some common misconceptions, while also explaining the national context schools are currently working within.

### **SEND funding is not allocated to individual children**

The Department for Education (DfE) is clear that SEND funding is provided to schools as part of their overall budget. This funding is not given as a personal or individual pot of money for each child on the SEND register. Instead, schools are expected to use their SEND funding to support a wide range of needs across the whole school, including resources, staff training, reasonable adjustments, and targeted interventions.

This means that children do not “come with funding” when they are identified as having SEND, and there is no set amount of money attached to an individual child.

### **EHCPs and additional funding**

An EHCP is intended for children with the most significant and complex needs, where support cannot reasonably be provided from the school's existing resources. The DfE and Local Authorities are clear that EHCPs should only be issued in a small number of cases. Applying for additional funding is a lengthy process and, even when successful, the funding awarded is often limited.

An EHCP does not guarantee a specific level of funding or a particular type of support.

### **1:1 support**

A common myth is that SEND funding or an EHCP automatically provides full-time 1:1 teaching assistant support. This is not the case. The DfE does not routinely fund 1:1 provision, and nationally, full-time 1:1 support is now extremely rare.

Evidence supported by the DfE shows that children often make better progress through high-quality classroom teaching, targeted small-group interventions, and support that builds independence, rather than constant adult support.



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### **National funding pressures**

The SEND system is widely recognised as being chronically underfunded at a national level. While the DfE has announced additional funding, it has not kept pace with rising levels of need and demand. The limited availability of alternative provision and specialist support creates additional pressure for schools, and the financial constraints are deeply felt by our staff and leadership team. We share your frustrations, as we are committed to providing the best support we can despite these challenges.

### **What schools can do**

Despite these pressures, we remain committed to supporting pupils with SEND as effectively as possible. Support is carefully planned by class teachers and the SENCo, reviewed regularly, and based on individual needs rather than labels, diagnoses, or funding assumptions. Parents and carers are always involved in discussions about their child's support.

We understand that this can be frustrating for families, and we want to reassure you that we are doing everything possible within the funding and systems set by the DfE and the Local Authority.

If you have any questions about SEND provision or would like to discuss your child's support in more detail, please contact the school to arrange a meeting.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Best wishes,

Mrs Godbold