

**Freedom of Information Act / Environmental Information Regulations Request**

Reference: ECC17649828 11 24
Response: 03 Decmeber 2024

I can confirm that Essex County Council does hold this information, and where we are able to release this, our response is listed below.

1. **Details of the help Essex expect local primary schools to provide for children with SEN that relates to autistic overwhelm when in a classroom setting.**

I can confirm that Essex County Council does hold this information, but it is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Act because the information is available elsewhere.

The Ordinarily Available (OA) is a set of recommendations bringing together best practices from across Essex schools.

The OA can be found on the Schools Infolink - <https://schools.essex.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/send-services-and-support/send-advice-and-2>

There is also a page for Autism support, advice and guidance including resources on the Infolink –

<https://schools.essex.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/autism>

There is also a list of assessments for different area of needs highlighted on the Infolink - <https://schools.essex.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/send-services-and-support/send-advice-and-guidance>

This acts as a refusal notice in respect of this element of your request.

1. **The amount of money Essex delegate to Stanway Fiveways Primary School for children with SEN but without EHC plans.**

Delegated funding to schools is not split into what should be used for pupils with an EHCP and those without an EHCP. However, all mainstream schools receive a Notional SEN fund within their delegated schools budget. The notional SEN budget is not a budget that is separate from a school’s overall budget. It is an identified amount within a maintained school’s delegated budget share or an academy’s general annual grant. It is intended as a guide for a school’s spending decisions and is neither a target nor a constraint on a school’s duty to use its ‘best endeavours’ to secure special provision for its pupils with SEN.

The Notional SEN Fund is used by school’s to fund the first £6,000 of support for pupils with an EHCP (or in receipt of pupil Top-Up funding) and up to £6,000 of additional support for the school’s pupils with special educational needs.

The value of Stanway Fiveways Primary School’s Notional SEN Fund for the 2024/25 financial year is £413,697.

1. **Details of the criteria Essex use to decide when to make an EHC needs assessment of autistic children who are unable to attend school due to needs not being met at school.**

I can confirm that Essex County Council does hold this information, but it is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Act because the information is available elsewhere.

The EHC Needs Assessment guidance includes the criteria for an EHCNA

The information you have requested is available at <https://schools.essex.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/send-services-and-support/request-ehc-needs-0-0>

This acts as a refusal notice in respect of this element of your request.

**Your Right to Know**

Democracy and Transparency

Essex County Council

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