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Dear Parent / Carer

The Government is changing the law on **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)** support. This letter highlights these changes and is to help you find out key information about what's changing and how it might affect you.

What's new?

This year the way local authorities, teachers, social workers and health professionals work out what support your child needs will change. The changes are designed to give you more say in decisions about what support and services are available where you live. The changes will also give you more of a say in how you are supported.

The Local Offer

The Local Offer is a new way of giving you and your family information about what support is available where you live. This includes information on services in education, health, social care and to help you prepare for adulthood. Local authorities will have to make the local offer accessible to everyone and details of Sheffield's local offer can be found here:

<http://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/kb5/sheffield/fsd/localoffer.page>

Education, Health and Care plans

If a child needs extra support in education, beyond normal school support, the local authority will need to carry out a Learning Difficulty Assessment or the child will have a document called Statement of SEN. A Statement has information and instructions that must be followed. Statements normally only cover educational support and what happens at school.

Statements of SEN are going to be replaced with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP)

EHCPs will still say what support your child needs to get the most out of their education. They may also include support you need from health services or social care.

EHCPs will be available to children and young people aged 0-25 who are in schools and colleges and other training such as supported internships, traineeships and apprenticeships.

Education, Health and Care plans will help education, health and social care workers work together to support your child to achieve their goals.

The final decisions about your child's support will still be made by the local authority/area that is responsible for making sure they get support.

SEND Register

Pupils with SEND currently receive support from systems within school while others receive support from outside agencies. When this is the case this support has been recorded on our SEN register as Statemented (via the Local Authority) as School Action (via school) or School Action Plus (from outside agencies.)

This new policy means a new SEND register will be introduced within school with the following categories:

- E – Educational Health Care Plan
- K – School Support
- N – Non School Support

This may mean that pupils previously on the SEND register may not be assigned to the new SEND register.

Transferring over to the new system

As per government guidelines all pupils will be transferred to this new system of SEND support by the 31st May, 2015 and over the next couple of months we will be contacting the parents of pupils who will be directly affected to ensure we help guide you through these new reforms.

Further Info

If you have any further questions about the reforms please read the Parents' Guide as produced by Department of Education;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

It sets out in more detail how the reforms will work and has been developed in partnership with parent representative bodies, such as the National Network of Parent Carer Forums, Contact a Family and Special Needs Jungle. It includes information about where you can go for more information and help. You can also speak to your council's local information, advice and support service - you can find contact information for these here:

www.parentpartnership.org.uk/find-your-pps/.

Bradfield School staff leading on this in school are:
Mrs Claire Fletcher – Inclusion Manager and SENCO
Mrs Elaine Barber – SEND Standards Mentor

Please also refer to our school website <http://bradfieldschool.net/> where you can find these details and any updates.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Donna Barker
Assistant Headteacher