

Support for Families: Sheffield and National Signposting

You are not on your own. As well as the support we offer in school, there are free local and national services for families of children with SEND. Our SENCo is always happy to help you find the right one.

Support in Sheffield

Service	How it can help	Contact
Sheffield SEND Information and Advice Service (SSENDIAS)	Free, impartial and confidential advice for parents and young people aged 0 to 25 on anything to do with SEND, including EHC needs assessments and EHCPs.	0114 273 6009 · ssendias@sheffield.gov.uk · sheffieldsendias.org.uk
Sheffield Local Offer	The council's directory of SEND services and information for ages 0 to 25: education, health, money, childcare, getting around, preparing for adulthood, ADHD, autism and neurodiversity.	localoffer@sheffield.gov.uk
Sheffield Parent Carer Forum	An independent group of parents and carers of children with SEND. Members support each other, share information and help shape local services.	Via their website
Sheffield Family Hubs	Seven hubs across the city offering help, advice and activities for families with children up to 19, or up to 25 for young people with SEND.	Find your nearest hub on the council website

Worried about school attendance or anxiety?

If your child is finding it hard to come to school because of anxiety or worry, often called emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA), please talk to us early. Together we can agree a plan, and we will review it with you regularly.

Service	How it can help
Sheffield Local Offer: anxiety and emotionally based school non-attendance	Sheffield's guidance for parents. It covers working with school, involving your GP, and local services such as the Family Intervention Service (which parents can contact directly), Door 43, CAMHS and the Inclusion and Attendance Team.
Sheffield Educational Psychology Service: EBSA guidance	The city's EBSA guidance, which explains the causes of school avoidance and approaches that help.
Sheffield School Matters	Council information on school attendance, including what to do if your child is worried about school.
Young Minds: school anxiety and refusal	Practical advice for parents on supporting an anxious child back into school.

National organisations

Organisation	How it can help
Young Minds	Advice for parents on children's mental health and wellbeing, including an A to Z guide.
National Autistic Society	Information, advice and family support for autistic children and their families, plus a directory of local services.
British Dyslexia Association (BDA)	Information for parents about dyslexia and a free, confidential helpline.
ADHD UK	Information about ADHD in children, the diagnosis pathway and support at school, plus online support groups, including for parents.
Speech and Language UK	A free online progress checker that tells you whether your child's talking and understanding are on track, with advice on what to do next.
Contact	Support for families with disabled children, including a free helpline (0808 808 3555) and emotional support appointments.
IPSEA (Independent Provider of Special Education Advice)	Free, independent legal advice on SEND, with guides and template letters for EHC needs assessments and EHCPs.
SEND: guide for parents and carers (GOV.UK)	The government's guide to how the SEND system works.