

Can my child get into a selective school if they have SEND?

The short answer is Yes – “SEND” does not automatically stop entry to grammar schools at 11+. But the reality is a bit more complicated. Remember to consider not just the exam process, but the reality of day to day life. Will your child thrive at the school? Does the school have the correct ethos and understanding of your child's needs?

How does it work?

As a parent of a child with SEND, you apply as normal - following the guidelines on individual school sites. Independent schools run their own admission timetable, some schools and counties will unite and follow a group timetable.

At this point, you will declare if your child has either an EHCP or a My Plan. It is essential that these are up to date and contain EVERY tiny adjustment your child requires to make the exam accessible to them.

These will include:

- Extra time - be specific - as a percentage how much longer do they usually have to complete the test?
- Room conditions - do they sit in their own room for formal assessments? Remember the use of “quiet space” for exams , will mean the usual exam room - these are “quiet spaces”.
- Rest breaks - frequency and what do they do? Fresh air etc
- Access to fluids - water to be on the table etc.
- Enlargement of printed papers.
- Coloured paper for test papers.

In addition, If your child has an EHCP, it is essential that the EHCP names a particular grammar school, the local authority must then:

- Agree the school is suitable (academic ability still matters)
- Confirm it can meet the child’s needs



If my SEND child “just” misses selection what can I do?

- Parents can apply for a review or appeal
- Strong evidence (e.g. educational psychologist reports, school reports and references) can help. And the school being requested will be asked if they can meet your child's needs.

