



High Needs Funding Statement

Reviewed: **August 2025**

Reviewed by: **Headteacher** / SLT / **Governors**

Date to be reviewed: **August 2026**



East Peckham Primary School, 130, Pound Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, TN12 5LH

Update April 2025:

High Needs Funding allocation in Kent has changed since this statement was created. This statement is still valid to explain how previous applications have been made, and also to communicate eligibility and spending.

From September 2025, any requests for High Needs Funding will be directed to the Weald 2 Community of Schools, of which East Peckham is a part of. The communities of schools will:

- Address specific local needs while also aligning with wider Kent, regional or national objectives
- Share best practices for SEN inclusion in mainstream settings
- Review local SEN, education and other relevant data to identify trends and issues - district dashboard.
- Be flexible to adapt approaches accordingly as local populations and needs evolve over time
- Discuss provision and agree coordinated approaches
- Coordinate allocation of specialist SEN resources and support
- Ensure fair and effective distribution of resources across the community
- Keep members actively engaged and committed to the LM community meetings
- Maintaining a skilled workforce within the community and provide peer to peer opportunities for professional development
- Use and review secure, efficient data-sharing systems
- Complement, not duplicate, existing services
- Commit to strong leadership, with regular evaluation and adjustment of LM community strategies, to ensure long-term sustainability and effectiveness
- Monitor progress on local SEN improvement initiatives.

This change from individual requests to community applications and decisions, means that how funding is allocated will be changing:

- From September 2025 until August 2026, any awards of High Needs Funding will be honoured to the value of 75% of the agreed amount. The expectation of in-school spending is inline with this statement.
- From August 2026, the agreed amounts will cease for children currently in receipt of High Needs Funding. Funding linked to EHCP will continue, but this system of allocation according to need on the EHCP is still being decided. Requests for funding will now be discussed by the Community of School.

Due to the transitional phase, this statement will remain until August 2026, before it is re-written once the new model is in place, and clarity has been provided regarding funding associated with EHCPs.

Further information regarding the changes can be found on the KELSI website:

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/inclusion/localities-model-for-school-inclusion/communities-of-schools>

What is High Needs Funding?

- High Needs Funding is additional financial support that can be obtained from Kent County Council.
- *'Schools are not expected to meet the full cost of more expensive special educational provision from their core funding. The local authority should provide additional top up funding where the cost of*

the SEN provision required to meet the needs of an individual pupil exceeds the nationally prescribed threshold (£6,000).’ (SEN Code of Practice 6.99)

Who is Eligible?

- A pupil will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

OR

- A pupil identified requiring SEND Support with severe and complex needs beyond what the school provision can meet, where the identification of the pupil’s SEND needs will have had the support of external professionals.

What takes place in East Peckham Primary before applying for High Needs Funding?

Before applying for High Needs Funding, the school will have fully utilised their normally available resources to address the needs of the pupil. The pupil’s provision which is above and beyond normal classroom practice will be outlined in Individual Personalised Plans (IPP). Only when provision outlined on the IPP exceeds £6000, will the school be able to apply for high needs funding. The funding pays for the provision that is outlined on the IPP, how the school deploys staff to cover this provision is at the discretion of the school. The school will also have fully utilised external agency support, such as the district offer of LIFT as part of the ‘assess, plan, do and review’ cycle or the Specialist Teaching Service, Surgery.. Recommendations from professionals will have been implemented and evaluated to evidence an increasingly personalised provision, as evidence for th indeed for further financial support.

All children at school have access to our SEND and pastoral offer. The School Leadership Team, which includes the SENCO, meet termly with class teachers to assess each child’s needs and to allocate resources and provisions based on the severity of need. Prioritising is essential as resources are limited. This includes, but is not limited to:

Pastoral Interventions

- Drawing and Talking Sessions
- Fizzy Cola Club
- Forest School Nurture
- Friendship Groups
- Soft landings (at drop off and after play times)
- Bespoke pastoral support, including support during unstructured time and working through interventions such as ‘My Hidden Chimp’

Academic Interventions

- 1:1/small group Little Wandle phonics intervention
- 1:1 BRP reading intervention
- SNAP Spelling intervention
- Word Wasp - for older pupils
- In-class support in small group (teacher or support staff)

- Individual support in class (teacher or support staff)

Language Interventions

- Language Link
- Barrier Games
- Reading Comprehension Group
- Language for Thinking

Is High Needs Funding always awarded after applying?

No. Kent County Council review all evidence submitted and assess the eligibility of each child against their criteria. The amount of funding received also varies. The funding is to cover provision on the individual plan.

How is it spent at East Peckham Primary?

Once all of the above has been satisfied and the school is in receipt of High Needs Funding, the SENCO will ensure that the funding is able to best support the child's IPP. Provision is always bespoke as children's needs vary, where it may be an academic need, a pastoral need, a behavioral need etc.

These are examples of how the funding is utilised at East Peckham Primary:

- As mentioned, the resources that already form part of our SEND and pastoral offer are limited, so additional funding means that this child is prioritised as additional sessions can now be funded.
- Additional staff may be employed, however the funding is not enough to cover an additional, full-time adult. The employment of additional adults is to cater for trigger points during the day when children may need extra help.
- It is NOT spent on providing additional 1:1 adults to work with children. This is a very out-dated model, which causes dependency of the child upon one adult to help them to make the correct decisions, or to heavily scaffold them through school life. This is not in the best interests of the child and is therefore not a strategy that we have in our SEND offer. At all times we use a team teach approach. It is also important that children are supported individually and in small groups by the class teacher, who is the most qualified member of staff in the room.
- It is NOT funding that can be spent by the parent/carer for the child - it is to be spent by the school to meet the needs of the child as they see best.
- Staff training is also covered, specifically when faced with an additional need of which we do not have experience. East Peckham Primary School is NOT a specialist setting, and therefore specialist skills are not always within our staff team.

Who makes the decisions about how High Needs Funding is spent?

The SENCO ensures that this funding is allocated according to the provision on the IPP, however all spending has to ultimately be approved by the Headteacher. IPPs are often extensive and detailed. The provision undertaken at any one time is at the discretion of the Headteacher, SENCO and Class Teacher, depending on what would benefit the child at that time. Interventions and strategies that are written on EHCP statements are also included on IPPs. However, interventions and strategies are constantly changing and evolving based on the priority needs of the child.