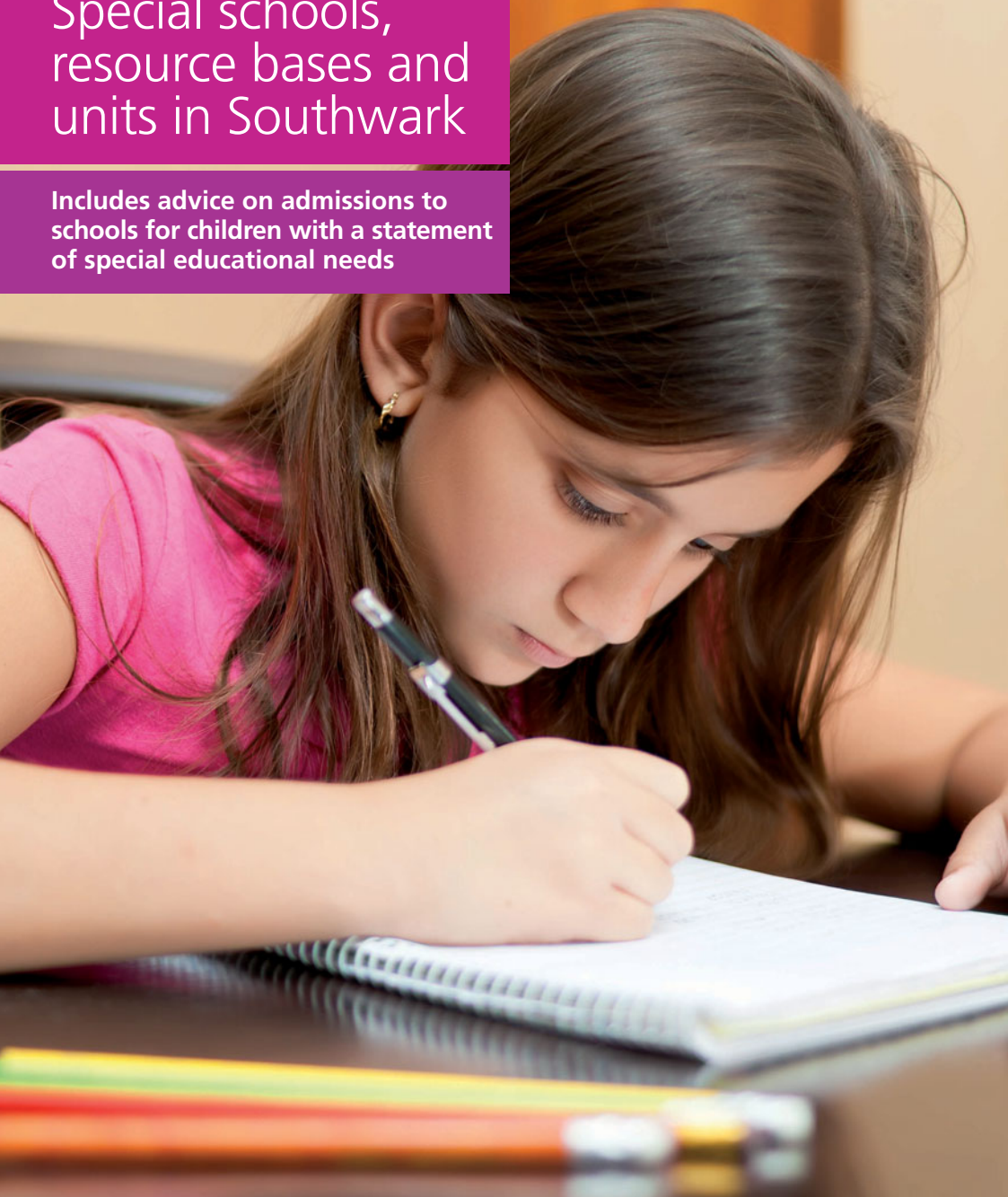


Special schools, resource bases and units in Southwark

Includes advice on admissions to
schools for children with a statement
of special educational needs



Special educational needs (SEN): admissions process

The arrangements for finding a school place for a child with a statement of special educational needs are different to those for children without a statement.

Parents/carers have the right to express a preference for the school that they would like their child to attend. It is then the responsibility of Southwark Council's special educational needs team to consult with schools to agree a suitable placement. The local authority (LA) has to consider the following in agreeing a suitable school for your child:

- If the school is suitable for your child's age, ability, skills and special educational needs
- If your child's presence will have a negative impact on the education of other children at the school
- If placing your child in the school will be an efficient use of the council's resources

Most children with special educational needs attend mainstream schools. Southwark, and other local authorities, also maintain special schools. If you feel that your child would benefit from special school provision you may express a preference for a special school place for your child.

Special schools admit children with particular types of special educational needs. Some Southwark primary mainstream schools also have resource bases for children with particular types of need. All special schools and resource bases in Southwark are detailed in this booklet.

You may want your child to go to a school that is not run by the local authority, a non-maintained special school or an independent school. The local authority will consider your wishes carefully before they make a final decision but, if there is a suitable state school, the LA have no legal duty to spend public money on a place for your child at a non-maintained or independent school.

The process

Primary school transfers – for children who have had a statement prior to the general admissions application deadline

An SEN preference form will be sent direct to the parent/carer's home address by Southwark Council's special educational needs team. You are able to express a preference for up to three schools. Clear guidance on when the form should be returned and where to send it will be enclosed.

Southwark Council's special educational needs team will then consult with these schools to agree a placement that is suitable to meet your child's special educational needs.

Secondary school transfers – for children who have had a statement prior to the general admissions application deadline

The process of identifying a suitable school for your child will start at the child's Year 5 annual review meeting. At the review meeting you will discuss the secondary school options for your child. It is important that you attend this review to express your views. The evidence gathered at the annual review meeting will be used to make amendments to your child's statement and to consult your secondary school preferences.

An SEN preference form will be sent direct to the parents/carers home address in the September of the school year of transfer (Year 6). This form gives the option of three school preferences. The form must be completed and returned to Southwark Council's special educational needs team by the date indicated on the form. Parents/carers of children with a statement of SEN will be notified of the school to be named on their child's statement on 15 February of the year of transfer.

The process (continued)

The final decision on the school named in your child's statement rests with the local authority.

Casual admissions

For children who move into Southwark with a statement of SEN, parents/carers will need to contact Southwark Council's special educational needs team to express their school preferences.

Appealing the decision

If you are unhappy with the school named in your child's statement of SEN, you have the right to appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal.

A special note on academies

Please note that a number of Southwark schools are now academies. These are independent state schools. The law governing academies is complex in relation to children with special educational needs. In addition there are more

than one type of academy particularly in the secondary school sector, Southwark has a number of both 'old' and 'new' style academies. For queries about admissions to an academy please contact Southwark Council's special educational needs team direct.

Please note that if your child is currently under assessment you must apply for a school place via Southwark Council's school admissions team.

The schools

Primary community special schools

School and age range	Speciality	Address	Contact details
Cherry Garden 4 to 11	Severe and complex learning difficulties	Macks Road SE16 3XU	Tel: 020 7237 4050 www.cherrygarden.southwark.sch.uk
Haymerle 5 to 11	Autistic spectrum condition	Haymerle Road SE15 6SY	Tel: 020 7639 6080 www.haymerle.southwark.sch.uk
Beormund 5 to 11	Emotional behavioural difficulties	Crosby Row SE1 3PS	Tel: 020 7525 9027 www.beormundschool.co.uk

Primary resource bases and units in mainstream schools

School and age range	Speciality	Address	Contact details
St John's and St Clement's 5 to 11	Hearing impairment resource base	Ady Road SE15 4DY	Tel: 020 7525 9210 www.stjohnsandstclements.org
John Ruskin 5 to 11	Speech and language unit	John Ruskin St SE5 0PQ	Tel: 020 7703 5800 www.johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk
Rye Oak Resource Base 5 to 11	Autistic spectrum condition	Whorlton Road SE15 3PD	Tel: 020 7639 3914 www.ryeoak.southwark.sch.uk
Brunswick Park SMILE Resource Base 5 to 11	Autistic spectrum condition	Picton Street SE5 7QH	Tel: 020 7525 9033 www.brunswickpark.southwark.sch.uk

The schools (continued)

Primary resource bases and units in mainstream schools (continued)

School and age range	Speciality	Address	Contact details
Redriff (Academy) The Boat House Resource Base 5 to 11	Autistic spectrum condition	Salter Road SE16 5LQ	Tel: 020 7237 4272 www.redriff.southwark.sch.uk
Snowsfields Rainbow Resource Base 5 to 11	Autistic spectrum condition	Kirby Grove SE1 3TD	Tel: 020 7525 9065 www.snowsfields.southwark.sch.uk

Secondary community special schools

School and age range	Speciality	Address	Contact details
Bredinghurst 11 to 16	Emotional behavioural difficulties	Stuart Road SE15 3AZ	Tel: 020 7639 2541 www.bredinghurst.southwark.sch.uk
Highshore 11 to 17	Mixed needs	Bellenden Road SE15 5BB	Tel: 020 7639 7211 www.highshore.southwark.sch.uk
Spa 11 to 19	Autistic spectrum condition	Monnow Road SE1 5RN	Tel: 020 7237 3714 www.spa.southwark.sch.uk
Tuke 11 to 19	Severe and complex learning difficulties	Daniel Gardens SE15 6ER	Tel: 020 7525 8002 www.tukeschool.co.uk

Where to go to for help and advice

Southwark Council's special educational needs team like to work in partnership with parents at all stages of the admissions process. For general queries please contact the SEN team (details on back page).

Further information on the admissions process for children with statements of special educational needs can be obtained by contacting Southwark Council's special educational needs team directly.

The SEN team hold an SEN drop in at Sunshine House every Friday during school term time between 9.30am to 12pm.


For working parents the following sessions are available by appointment only: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: 8am to 9.30am and 4.30pm to 6pm

In addition the SEN parent partnership team is independent of the council and is available to support all parents of children with special educational needs (details on back page).

In all cases it is advisable that you visit schools before stating preferences and discuss your child's needs with the special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) or special school headteacher.




Contact details

Southwark Council's special educational needs team

-  020 7525 4278
-  sen@southwark.gov.uk
-  www.southwark.gov.uk/sen




Parent partnership team

The parent partnership service is an impartial service provided by the local authority and is available to support any parent or carer who has a child with special educational needs, with or without a statement.

-  020 7525 2886 or 020 7525 2866
-  parentpartnership@southwark.gov.uk
-  www.southwarkparentpartnership.co.uk

School preference adviser

The school preference adviser (SPA) is based in the parent partnership service and can give you impartial, independent advice about the school applications process for all children.

-  020 7525 5211
-  schoolpref@southwark.gov.uk
-  www.southwarkparentpartnership.co.uk