

SEND NEWSLETTER

[Autumn 2026/27]



September 2026

BBC - Number of children receiving SEND Support hits another record high [25th June 2026 - Hayley Clarke]

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj4g18gy14no>

The Department for Education has found a 12.5% increase in learners requiring additional support between January 2025 and January 2026; specifically children with EHCPs. Over 110, 000 new EHCPs had been introduced over the 2025 calendar year; with half all children with EHCPs attending mainstream education.

The planned SEND reforms (released in the Spring Term) will mean all learners with SEND will receive an Individual Support Plan (ISP). Those with the highest needs will be awarded an EHCP if deemed appropriate. The reform will include guidance for mainstream settings creating inclusion hubs, and the government promise to invest £4bn into specialist support for schools.

Whilst the Education Secretary agreed that *'high-quality SEND provision Was postcode lottery'*, and the General Secretary for NASUWT highlighted that current provision had resulted in *'overstretched schools and overburdened teachers'*; the following concerns have been raised regarding reform;

- Legal rights to appropriate, tailored high-quality could be stripped away
- Fewer children will be entitled to an EHCPs

'Our children are less cognitively capable,' says neuroscientist who wants to cut screen use in schools

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2026/aug/16/neuroscientist-screen-use-schools-educational-technology-jared-cooney-horvath>

Former Teacher Jared Coorey Horvath claims educational technology undermines the development and learning. He highlighted that children that use more than 6 hours of technology per day scored below their peers (PISA); and believed the use of technology increased significantly due to Covid.

The Professor of Educational Assessment Of UCL Institute of Education;

'Technology may be harming student achievement but ... many well designed studies that show technology can have a positive impact on student achievement'; As such the more appropriate question to reflect on is *'when does edtech help learning?'*

We Can't Separate Data On Attendance And Behaviour [3rd September 2026 - Lydia Chantler-Hicks]

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/we-cant-separate-data-on-attendance-and-behaviour-says-ofsted-chief/>

Paul Whiteman General [Secretary NAHT Union] and Andy Jordan [Inspection and Accountability Specialist ASCL Union] highlighted the reformed Ofsted judgement 'needs attention' for attendance and behaviour whilst narrative described exemplary pupil behaviour (and vice versa).

Whilst it was highlighted that Ofsted provided 'narrative' alongside the grade provided to the school, it was agreed that some schools may require the attendance/behaviour to be graded separately in order to provide a more accurate reflection of the schools performance.

A date for Ofsted grading review has not been set