

Easy read summary

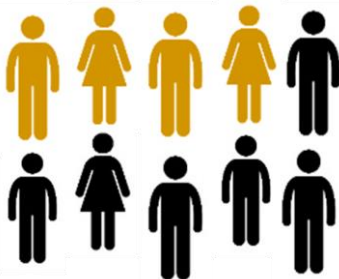
Additional support for learning





Additional support for learning means any support that is extra or different to the help that most children receive including:

- help with learning
- support to be fully involved in school life.



4 out of 10 children and young people in school get some additional support to help their learning.



That is more than 2 hundred and 80 thousand children and young people across Scotland.



Someone at school might need additional support because:

- they do not speak English as a first language
- they are a young carer, for example looking after a mum, dad, brother or sister who is not well
- they have a learning disability or **behavioural difficulties** – difficulties with the way they act, or with coping with their moods
- they have physical disabilities.



Most children and young people who get additional support are taught in a **mainstream** school.



A **mainstream** school is a council run school for any children and young people in the area, including those with additional support needs.



About 8 thousand children and young people do not go to a mainstream school and are taught in a **special school**.



Special schools are just for children with more complicated additional support needs.



In 2004 the Scottish Government changed the law to help more children and young people get additional support.



But the Scottish Government did not plan for this.



The number of children and young people who get additional support for learning now is 8 times more than in 2004.



The Scottish Government and councils do not have the information they need to understand:



- what additional support children and young people need
- how long children and young people need additional support for
- how much support costs.



There is not a lot of information about how well children and young people who get additional support do at school.

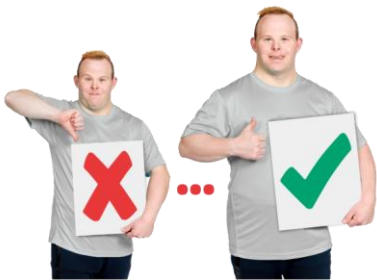


The information we have shows that children and young people who need additional support can have a worse time at school than other pupils.



This can include:

- being more likely to miss school
- being **excluded** from school – this is when a pupil is not allowed to come to school because they have broken school rules
- being less likely to do well in exams.



Change is needed now.

The Scottish Government and councils need to think about how they measure the success of all children and young people at school.



Success should not just be about passing exams.



The Scottish Government and councils must get better information to understand what additional support needs children and young people have.



Providing additional support for learning is an important part of what classroom teachers do.



The Scottish Government should make sure that the needs of pupils getting additional support for learning are thought about in the way schools are funded and staffed.



They should do this by working with:

- children and young people
- parents and carers
- teachers and support staff.



This is very important and will:

- help all children and young people to be the best they can be
- respect the rights of all children and young people.

