

Summary: Chapter 4 - Statutory assessments and the statementing process

Statutory assessment was only ever meant for those children with the most severe and complex needs (about two in every hundred children).

Schools and/or parents can make a request to the local authority to undertake a statutory assessment. Evidence must be provided to support the application. Supportive Parents can help.

It is a legal process and takes 26 weeks to complete. Parents need to keep careful records.

Parents can talk to a Named SEN Officer at the local authority during the process.

Parents must be invited to contribute to the process. Schools and Supportive Parents can help.

The child's school, a doctor, an Educational Psychologist and Social Care will also be asked to write reports. Parents can ask for others to be contacted.

If at any time during the process the local authority decides not to proceed, parents can appeal against this decision. The local authority must tell parents how to apply to the SEN and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST). Supportive Parents can help at every stage of the process.