

Blocks of Specialist Teaching

A school can request a block of 1-1 teaching as part of the graduated response. This consists of 12 x 1hour lessons, delivered in the school over a 6 week period.

A block of specialist teaching is generally suitable for pupils in years 3 and above, who are working significantly below their peers. We do not deliver blocks of teaching for maths.

Every school has 13 hrs (primary) or 16 hrs (secondary) already in their delegated SEN budget. Before applying for a block of teaching they must show that they are currently delivering appropriate interventions and support for the child, using these funds. If a child is eligible for pupil premium, the school should also evidence how this funding has been used.

School must be able to demonstrate that despite interventions the child is not making progress.

Before making an application, schools should consider whether sight and hearing tests are appropriate for the child and whether they have acceptable attendance – all of these factors would have significant impact on a child's progress. You might also discuss your request with an EP to see if they agree that a block of teaching is appropriate.

Blocks of specialist teaching are not only for the benefit of the child, but also a modelling experience to enhance the capacity of school. It is a requirement that all schools requesting these blocks provide a TA who can sit and observe in all the lessons. The TA can then continue the strategies with the child on days when the tutor is not present, and can maintain the support after the block has finished. They will also learn skills and strategies which they can use with other pupils in the school. A suitable learning environment will be needed which is quiet and private.