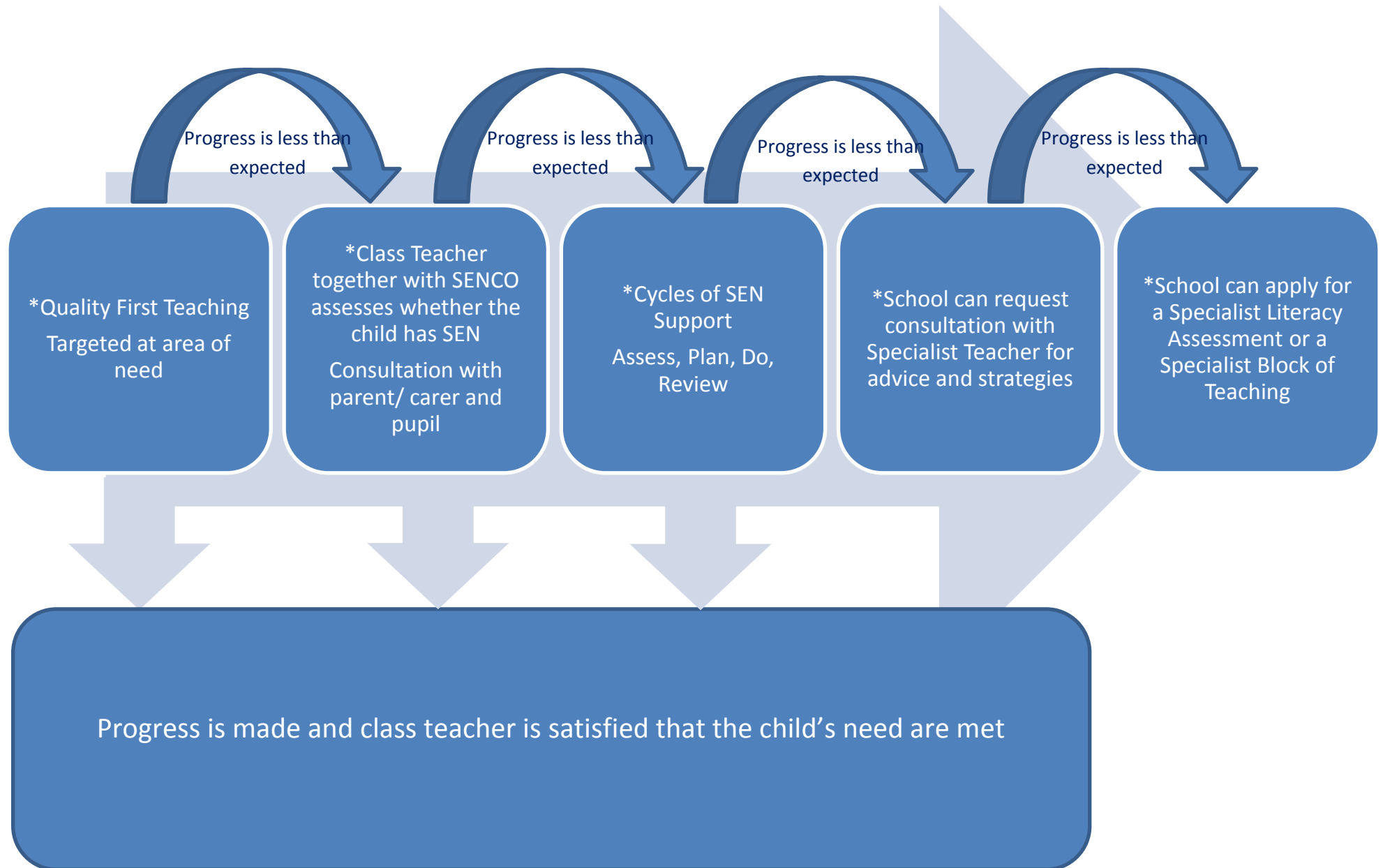


Support from Specialist Teacher for Cognition and Learning



What does the Learning Support Service offer to children with Cognition and Learning Difficulties ?

All children should have access to quality first teaching where they are supported so that they can keep up the pace of learning and make good rates of progress. If a child is failing to make progress then school can request support from the Cognition and Learning team for a range of services. If parents would like their child to access support from the Cognition and Learning Service, they must discuss their concerns with schools who can apply for support, if they feel that it is appropriate, using the Named Child Referral document on:

<http://www4.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/SpecialEducationalNeedsLocalOffer/CognitionandLearning.aspx>

Specialist Teacher Consultation

If school are concerned that a child is not making progress in literacy, they can apply for a Specialist Teacher Consultation. This will involve one of the Specialist Teachers team visiting school and either discussing the pupil with the teacher or observing the child during a lesson. The Specialist Teacher will then write a report that will provide advice and strategies specifically for the child to make progress.

This consultation does not need to be agreed at panel.

Specialist Blocks of 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.

Specialist Literacy Assessment

The primary purpose of an assessment is to suggest an appropriate teaching programme, rather arrive at a diagnosis. The assessment usually consists of a series of standardised tests which are specifically chosen for appropriateness after discussion with the teacher. Examples of tests administered are : single word spelling and reading, phonological awareness, ability and comprehension .

The results of the assessment will then be considered and advice will be given regarding which areas a child may need support and what interventions could be used to allow progress to be made .

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 literacy assessment is appropriate.

Training

A free Teaching Assistant training programme is available for schools throughout the year, Academies and Free Schools will be charged a fee for this service. Schools can also request specific training from the Cognition and Learning Service, Academies and Free Schools will be charged a fee for this service.

The Cognition and Learning Service strongly recommend that all schools use the *Teaching and supporting pupils with Dyslexia* online programme which is a free tool and is available on www.idponline.org.uk to train staff and provide a consistent approach to pupils with dyslexia through quality first teaching, throughout school. The programme provides information needed across the education workforce, to support learners with dyslexia.