

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING: AN INTRODUCTION TO JARGON AND ACRONYMS

This jargon buster is, and will always be, a work in progress as terminology changes and evolves. As a living document, new terms can be added and existing definitions refined. The focus of the document is language which is used nationally – many local authorities have their own terminology eg for types or pathways of additional support for learning provision. Please email [info@connect.scot](mailto:info@connect.scot) if you have jargon and acronyms that should be added to this resource or amendments to suggest.

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| Advocacy                                                               |                 | Advocacy is about supporting a child, parent or carer to express their own needs and views and to assist making informed decisions on matters which affect them. Parent groups should not act as advocates.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder<br>Attention Deficit Disorder | ADHD<br><br>ADD | Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common neurological disorders or differences. Key characteristics include inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Autism Spectrum Condition (or historically Disorder)                   | ASC or ASD      | Autism is a lifelong condition which can affect how people communicate, manage daily life and interact with the world; it is part of neurodiversity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Additional Support for Learning                                        | ASL             | Additional support for learning means giving children extra help or support, removing barriers to learning, or making reasonable adjustments to learning so they can thrive, progress and fully engage with their education. This includes extending and enhancing learning for particularly able learners. It might mean longer or short-term support eg responding to a health condition will require long term support but a life event may require shorter support. The type of support may also change over time. |
| The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004    | ASL Act         | This act sets out duties of local authorities and the rights of parents, children and young people to additional support for learning. Under the ASL Act, local authorities must identify, provide for and review the Additional Support Needs of their pupils.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Additional Support Needs                                               | ASN (SEN)       | A child or young person is said to have additional support needs if they need more – or different support – to enable them to learn, thrive and progress in their learning and lives This may be due to disability and health; learning environment; family                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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|                                                   |       | <p>circumstances; social and emotional factors such as bereavement or mental health challenges. Being particularly able – when a child performs at a significantly higher level than their peers – is also considered a support need. In the rest of the UK, Special Educational Needs (SEN) or SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) are the terms used. You will see this term on UK-wide websites, resources and information</p>                                                        |
| Assessment of Need                                | AON   | <p>An Assessment of Need is a process that helps determine what care and support a child or young person might require</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| British Sign Language                             | BSL   | <p>British Sign Language is one of Scotland's four official languages. This visual language is used amongst the deaf or hearing-impaired community.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland | CYPCS | <p>The legal body which acts on legislation relating to children and young people. They have specific responsibilities in ensuring that children's rights are protected in Scotland, ensuring that children are involved in discussions and decisions that impact them at government level.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services    | CAMHS | <p>CAMHS is a free NHS service that helps children and young people with emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties. Children and young people can be referred to this service by their doctor or health provider.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Child Disability Payment                          | CDP   | <p>Child Disability Payment provides support for the extra costs that a disabled child might have. It replaces Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children and young people living in Scotland. The disability can be mental or physical. Child Disability Payment is for children under 16 who need more care or supervision than other children of the same age or have difficulties in getting around outdoors. This can be paid in addition to the Universal Credit Disabled Child Element.</p> |
| Curriculum for Excellence                         | CfE   | <p>Curriculum for Excellence is the way schools and early years centres organise learning and teaching for 3–18 year olds. It was introduced with the aim of making sure education is relevant to the changing world. It aims for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a more interactive approach to learning and teaching, based on real life applications for learning</li> </ul>                                                                                                          |

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|                                                     |     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- more cross-subject work</li> <li>- a focus on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing</li> <li>- An inclusive, child-led education system</li> <li>- a modernised qualification system.</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="#">Education Scotland's webpages</a> on CfE.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Child Plan                                          | CP  | A personalised plan for a child or a young person -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Community Learning & Development                    | CLD | Teams who work with and support communities in areas such as adult and family learning and youth work.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Child Planning Meeting                              | CPM | A meeting with parent/carer and school staff to create a plan of support for a child or young person. Terminology may vary between local authorities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Co-ordinated Support Plan                           | CSP | <p>A child/young person is eligible for a CSP when they have long term, multiple or complex needs. It is used when there is support needed from a range of services (eg health or social care) in addition to education, on an ongoing basis. Read more <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>CSPs should be developed by the local authority and school in partnership with parents. If a CSP is not provided, and a child may be eligible, parents have the right to ask for one. Parents should also be involved in regular reviews of the CSP.</p> |
| Disability                                          |     | Disability is defined in the Equality Act 2010 as a long-lasting health condition that limits daily activity. It can be a physical or mental impairment, or both, that has a substantial and long term adverse impact on a person's ability to carry out day-to-day activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Dyscalculia                                         |     | Dyscalculia is a specific learning difficulty affecting the ability to understand and process numbers and mathematical processes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Dysgraphia                                          |     | Dysgraphia is a learning difficulty that affects the ability to write                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Dyspraxia (or Developmental Co-ordination Disorder) | DCD | A neurodiverse condition that can affect balance, coordination, fine or gross motor skills, concentration, reading, writing, organisation skills, processing and more.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Dyslexia                                            |     | Dyslexia can impact reading, writing, concentration, phonological difficulties, processing skills, organisation skills and more.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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| Enquire                                                                      |                                   | Enquire is the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning. It is funded by the Scottish Government and provides easy to understand advice and information about additional support for learning legislation and guidance for families and professionals. Visit the <a href="#">Enquire website</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Educational Psychologist                                                     | Sometimes shortened to 'Ed Pysch' | Professionals who support schools and local authorities in meeting the educational, social, and emotional needs of children and young people                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| English as an Additional Language or English for Speakers of Other Languages | EAL/ESOL                          | This includes children/young people and parents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- who have recently arrived in Scotland from another country and are new to learning English</li> <li>- who have always lived in this country but use a language other than English at home.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Equality and Human Rights Commission                                         | EHRC                              | The Commission has responsibility for the promotion and enforcement of equality and non-discrimination laws in England, <a href="#">Scotland</a> and Wales (in Scotland, together with the <a href="#">Scottish Human Rights Commission</a> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Equality Act 2010                                                            | Equality Act                      | The Equality Act (2010) prohibits discrimination (whether direct or indirect) against people who possess one of the protected characteristics, listed above. It also prohibits the harassment and victimisation of such people. It covers the following protected characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• age</li> <li>• disability</li> <li>• gender reassignment</li> <li>• race</li> <li>• religion or belief</li> <li>• sex</li> <li>• sexual orientation</li> <li>• marriage and civil partnership</li> <li>• pregnancy and maternity.</li> </ul> |
| Equity                                                                       |                                   | A key term in Scottish education policy - 'achieving equity' means ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Getting it Right for Every Child                                             | GIRFEC                            | A national approach which aims to make sure all Scotland's children, young people and their families                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|                                                           |                     | have support across public services, such as health, education and social work.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Individualised Education Plan                             | IEP                 | An IEP is a document which sets out the goals and achievements of school pupils who may have additional support needs. (See <i>PLP</i> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Local Authority                                           | LA                  | There are 32 local authorities in Scotland. Local authorities make decisions about services (education, social care etc) in their areas, often based on legislation, Scottish Government guidance and national policy. Find out more <a href="#">here</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Masking                                                   |                     | Masking is one the many strategies that neurodivergent people use to camouflage their neurodivergent behaviours. It can be used by young people to avoid negative attention, feel accepted or included or adhere to social norms. Masking in public and school settings is often very tiring and can result in upset or distressing behaviours when at home.                                                                                                                  |
| Mediation                                                 |                     | A form of dispute resolution with a professional independent mediator to help parties communicate and mend relationships. The Additional Support for Learning Act makes provision for the use of mediation. <a href="#">Resolve Mediation</a> specifically deals with education disputes; check out <a href="#">Scottish Mediation</a> for more on mediation and mediators.                                                                                                   |
| Neurodiverse/<br>Neurodiversity                           |                     | Neurodiversity is a term that is used to describe differences in the way people's brains work. Anyone who experiences these differences is said to be neurodiverse. A number of specific additional support needs fit within this description,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Obsessive Compulsive Disorder                             | OCD                 | Invasive and/or repetitive thoughts or behaviours.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Pathological Demand Avoidance or Extreme Demand Avoidance | PDA or EDA (or ODD) | People with PDA will feel unable to go along with requests and expectations and may go to considerable lengths to avoid these demands. This is often an anxiety-driven response to feeling under pressure and unable to control the situation or environment. The umbrella term Oppositional Defiance Disorder is sometimes used for these conditions which are often an anxiety-driven response to feeling under pressure or unable to control the situation or environment. |
| Personal Learning Plan(ning)                              | PLP                 | This is the means by which learners take ownership of their own learning, often recording their learning,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|                                                                 |        | progress and achievements in a document, folder or online platform. It can be used as a planning and support tool for all learners.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Placing request                                                 |        | If you write to your council or local authority (or complete a form) and request a place in a particular school that is not your catchment school, this is known as a placing request. You can make a request for a special school (this includes independent and grant aided as well as council special schools) or a mainstream school. There are both local and national deadlines for placing requests for a new academic year, although a request can be made at any time during the school year. If your request is turned down, you can appeal this. Check out <a href="#">Enquire's webpage</a> . |
| Pupil Support Assistant                                         | PSA    | Usually helps support one or more individual pupils with their learning and with school life. Pupil Support Assistants work one-to-one with pupils and may support a number of pupils throughout the day or week.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Scottish Attainment Challenge                                   | SAC    | The Scottish Attainment Challenge is about achieving equity in educational outcomes, with a particular focus on closing the poverty-related attainment gap. Equity can be achieved by ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Scottish Child Payment                                          | SCP    | This is a benefit which is only available in Scotland for parents in receipt of specific other benefits.<br><a href="https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment/who-should-apply">https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment/who-should-apply</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Scottish Human Rights Commission                                |        | The Scottish Human Rights Commission works on legal, policy and practical issues that affect people's human rights in Scotland. It has campaigned to end the use of restraint and seclusion of children in Scotland as has the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland (CYPCS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Selective Mutism                                                | SM     | Selective mutism is an anxiety-based disorder where a person who is capable of speech becomes unable to speak in specific situations or as a result of trauma.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Special Educational Needs (and Disabilities)                    | SEN(D) | See Additional Support Needs above – SEND is used in the rest of the UK.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Sensory Processing Difficulties/Sensory Disintegration Disorder | SDD    | People who experience sensory processing difficulties or sensory disintegration disorder experience their brain processing information from one or several                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |



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|                                                                                                 |                | senses in a way that causes distress, anxiety or discomfort.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| SHANARRI Outcomes: Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included | SHANARRI       | These are part of GIRFEC and are necessary for a child or young person to reach their potential. They are used to record observations, events and concerns to create an individual plan for a child.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Special School                                                                                  | Special School | Local authorities run special schools and/or specialist settings or units in mainstream schools to cater for different additional support needs and disabilities.<br><br>Your local authority will decide whether a child would be better placed in a special school or unit. If you have not been offered a place in a special school but would like to request one, parents are entitled to make a placing request (see Placing Request above). If your request is turned down, you have the right of appeal. |
| Specific Learning Differences                                                                   | SLD or SpLD    | Specific Learning Difficulties is a general term for named or diagnosed learning difficulties.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Scottish National Action Plan for Human Rights                                                  | SNAP (1 &2)    | Scotland's national human rights action plan. Its vision is a Scotland where everyone can live with human dignity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Speech and Language Therapy                                                                     | SALT or SLT    | Support services provided to children with speech, language, and communication needs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Subject Access Request                                                                          | SAR            | Individuals can make a request to see information held about them or their child by an organisation. You do not need to give a reason for making this request. Find out more here <a href="https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/getting-copies-of-your-information-subject-access-request/">https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/getting-copies-of-your-information-subject-access-request/</a>                                                                                                                       |
| Tourette's Syndrome                                                                             |                | Tourette's Syndrome is a neurodivergent condition which can cause people to make sounds and movements that they can't control.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Transition                                                                                      |                | Changing from one stage of education to another. This refers to moving stages of education, for example moving from nursery to primary school, primary school to secondary, secondary to further/higher education, or leaving education.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child                                            | UNCRC          | A legally binding international agreement setting out the rights of every child regardless of their race, religion or abilities. Applicable to everyone under the age of 18, its aim is to ensure that children grow up in                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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|  |  | a spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity. |
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### Useful Jargon Busters from other Organisations

- [Enquire's Jargon Buster of Additional Support for Learning terms](#)
- [Scottish Sensory Centre British Sign Language glossary](#)
- [Kindred jargon buster for parents and carers of children with complex needs](#)
- [Mobilise's Jargon buster for carers](#)
- [Disability Rights UK Jargon Buster](#)
- [Contact's Talking About Tomorrow Jargon Buster](#) (benefits etc)
- [Carers' Trust Scotland Young Carers' Jargon Buster](#)

You are welcome to use information from this resource. However, if you do, please acknowledge Connect. We welcome your comments and feedback.

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