

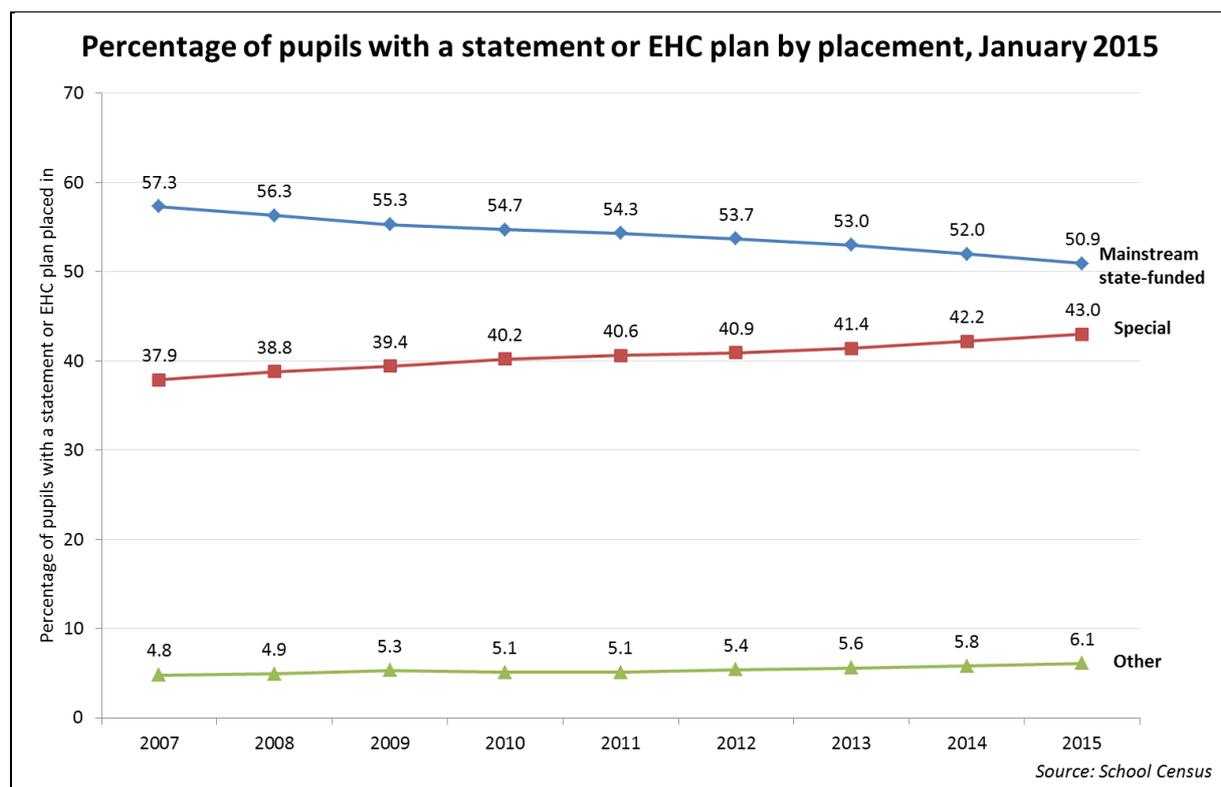
Sheffield School Places Consultation

Sheffield Parent Carer Forum response



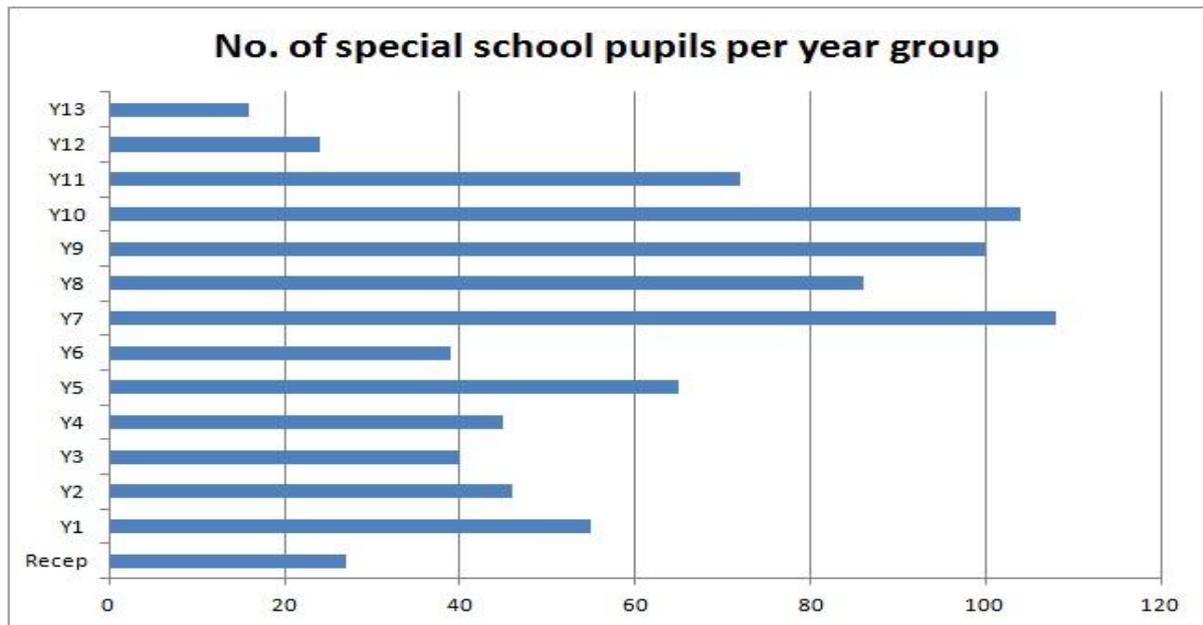
Comments in relation to children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)

- The council proposals for extra school places make no specific mention of provision for children with SEND.
- If Sheffield is experiencing an increase in primary aged pupils then the number of children with SENDs is also increasing.
- DfE data for January 2015 indicates that 18.6% of school pupils in Sheffield are identified as having SEN and 2.5 % have a statement or EHC Plan.
- Using these figures, if 1,000 extra children are entering the school system each year in Sheffield then 186 are likely to be identified as having SEN and 25 will need an EHC Plan.
- National statistic from the School Census show that the percentage of pupils with a statement or EHC Plan who are placed in special schools is increasing. See below



- The rise in the secondary school numbers (690 extra Y7s by 2019/20) would equate to an extra 128 Y7 pupils with SEN and an extra 17 Y7 pupils with an EHC Plan.

- Sheffield local authority data from July 2015 shows that there is a clear drift towards special schools as children move into the secondary phase of education:



- All the special schools in Sheffield are already over full now and do not have the space to accommodate more pupils.
- This year the council struggled to find secondary school places for approximately 40 Y7 pupils with autism.
- Specialist services (e.g. Autism team, Educational Psychology) and therapy services (e.g. Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, CAMHS) that help support children with SEND in mainstream schools are already overstretched. In our “State of Sheffield 2014” survey, 74% of parents said that their child was receiving “too little” support from Educational Psychology, the Autism team and Speech and Language Therapy.

Recommendations

- The Council should build a new (co-located) secondary special school in the northeast. This would ease the pressure on the existing special schools and help to reduce SEN transport costs.
- Satellite hubs (Westfield model) should be part of the plans for the new secondary schools in the NE and the SW.
- The needs of pupils with SEND (lifts, wider corridors, break out spaces, alternative dining rooms, etc.) can be accommodated much more easily in new build schools than in refurbished schools.
- Parents should be involved at the design stage to ensure that any new build or refurbished schools are SEND friendly.

- Specialist services (e.g. Educational Psychology, Autism Team) and therapy services (e.g. Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, CAMHS) are expanded to accommodate increased demand.
- Parents of children with SEND across the city should be consulted about the impact rising school populations will have on the education of their children.
- The Council should conduct a full disability impact assessment for any agreed option.