

Derbyshire County Council - Inclusion Support Services

Inclusion Panel Funding

You said, we did 2025 to 2026

Feedback from schools	Response
The Inclusion Funding form is time consuming to complete.	The form has been updated and streamlined to ensure only essential information being requested. All elements of the form now have character limits to provide clarity in the amount of information/detail required.
It is particularly time consuming to have to separate provision into Element 2 and Element 3 to try to make Element 2 as near to £6000 as possible.	The updated form has a single provision map with Element 2 and Element 3 funding automatically calculated by the form
Why do I have to fill in a full form when I only need short-term funding because a pupil's EHCP has been delayed?	A simplified extension process has been introduced where the EHCNA process has gone beyond the statutory timescales – this is in the guide for schools Inclusion Panel - Derbyshire Local Offer
Why do I have to fill in a full form to get short-term funding for a pupil who will be leaving my school soon?	A simplified extension process has been introduced for pupil's who have inclusion funding ending in their last term in a school – this is in the guide for schools Inclusion Panel - Derbyshire Local Offer
It is not clear when/how I apply for funding for a pupil who is joining my school at the start of the next academic year.	Schools can apply for Inclusion Funding for a pupil from the Easter before they will be starting at their school in Reception, Year 3 (junior schools) or Year 7. We recommend that they work with the pupil's current school/setting to understand the pupil's strengths, needs and to plan appropriate provision. This is through the usual Inclusion Funding request process, and the request should come from the receiving school.
Why don't you continue Inclusion Funding when a pupil moves school? It is hard to apply for funding for a pupil who has just joined our school as we don't know them well or fully understand their needs.	We have introduced transition funding to support pupils with Inclusion Funding when there is an unplanned/in-year school move. Funding will be provided at the previously agreed level for 8 term-time weeks to support transition, meeting needs and allow school time to understand strengths and barriers and submit a request for longer term funding if this is needed. This form must be submitted within 6 weeks of the child starting at the school. This is in the guide for schools Inclusion Panel - Derbyshire Local Offer
Inclusion funding is not enough to cover the costs of external provision such as alternative provision or specialist support.	We are required to allocate this top-up funding in a fair, equitable and sustainable way. The costs of external provision/providers varies widely, and we are only able to contribute towards the cost of this funding at the agreed rate.

Feedback from schools	Response
The funding amount of £17.59 per hour is out of date and does not cover the cost of support.	The funding allocation represents a contribution towards the overall cost of support. As set out in the Inclusion Funding Terms of Reference, Inclusion Funding is not a statutory payment; rather, it is a discretionary allocation designed to support children and young people whose needs require additional provision beyond what is ordinarily available, but who may not meet the criteria for statutory funding streams. The level of funding is reviewed regularly in partnership with Financial Services to ensure that it remains sustainable and equitable, while aligning with the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding received by the local authority to support schools and education.
I don't understand/disagree with the decision made by panel to reduce or refuse Inclusion Funding.	We are always happy to discuss Inclusion Funding and offer support to schools. This can be at any point in the process. Please contact cs.inclusionfund@derbyshire.gov.uk if you have any questions about Inclusion Funding or a particular request.
I can't get funding for pupil with needs that are wholly/mainly medically based.	Inclusion Funding is available for pupils with medical needs. We recommend contacting cs.inclusionfund@derbyshire.gov.uk before applying.
The Inclusion Funding process is set up to make getting Inclusion Funding too difficult/impossible.	We have provided support to school to better understand the process through Inclusion Funding workshops, SENDCO Networks and clearer guidance on our local offer. Support is available by speaking to your school ISAT (Inclusion Support Advisory Teacher) or emailing cs.inclusionfund@derbyshire.gov.uk Over the past 2 years the number of requests approved has increased from 35% to 80%.