

Request

We would like to know - How many pupils at Wigan primary and secondary schools have been diagnosed with SEN in the most recent academic year? (2021-22). How does this compare with, say, 5 and 10 years ago?

Can you also include a breakdown of what are the different types of SEN which pupils are being diagnosed with, such as ADHD, OCD and dyslexia.

Response

Between 01/01/2022 – 03/04/2023, Wigan LA has received a total of 815 new requests for EHC Needs Assessments; this is based on both parental and professional referrals, and it is anticipated that the majority of these learners will have had their SEN formally recognised by their named school / setting and have been placed on the SEN register.

The demand for EHC Needs Assessments has increased considerably since the implementation of the SEND Code of Practice (2014). The LA currently maintains 2655 EHCP's in comparison to 1008 in 2016.

Of the 2655 EHCP's current maintained, the breakdown of primary category of need is as follows:

- Autism Spectrum Condition – 710
- SEMH – 693
- Speech, Language and Communication- 387
- Severe Learning Disability – 309
- Moderate Learning Disability – 305
- Physical Disability – 83
- Specific Learning Difficulty – 33
- Hearing Impairment – 31
- Profound and Multiple Learning Disability – 30
- Medical Needs – 24
- Visual Impairment -24
- Unknown – 20

Not all children with SEND have an EHCP there are approximately 8562 children that are identified as having a SEN but do not have an EHCP. In 2018 this number was 7081. The biggest growth has been:

ASC from 568 to 1058, SEMH from 1797 to 2524 and SLCN from 1505 to 2475.

We are continuing to work closely with our schools and our families to identify need at the earliest opportunity and to put in place the right resources and provision to meet these needs. However, appropriate funding remains a challenge both for schools and the local authority. Whilst we have welcomed increases to high needs over the last few years, this has not increased in line with the demand and need we are experiencing.