

A grayscale photograph of a person in a wheelchair, seen from behind, with their right arm raised towards the sky. They are wearing a heavy winter coat and a fur-lined hat. The setting is an open field of tall grass under a cloudy sky. A large, solid orange circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the report's title and date.

# Wandsworth SEND Dashboard Commentary Report

*Last Updated: October 2025*

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# Introduction

This commentary report sits alongside the full SEND Dashboard, which draws together a range of SEND indicators into a consistent visual summary. This report pulls out key points and data of interest that highlight areas of success as well as areas of improvement. To align with the SEND Dashboard, it is organised into the three questions in the evaluation schedule in Ofsted’s SEN Inspection Handbook. As a result, it may be particularly helpful in preparing for and during an Ofsted inspection. For details on the data sources, please refer to the Notes section of the accompanying SEND Dashboard.

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## Latest Updates

The data in the following sections of this commentary report has been most recently updated, denoted by coloured outlines:

- KS2 attainment - 2024/25 provisional
- KS4 attainment - 2024/25 provisional
- Phonics - 2024/25
- KS4 and KS5 destinations - 2023/24
- Cross Border Movement - 2024/25
- S251 SEND budgets - 2025/26 financial year

# A. Identification

*How effectively does the local area identify children and young people with SEND?*

Although the proportion of residents with an EHCP is lower than average, Wandsworth's primary and secondary schools have some of the largest cohorts of EHCP pupils across England. Incidence of speech, language and communication needs as well as severe learning difficulty remain high, while the proportion with a primary need of autism spectrum disorder remains comparatively low.

## Prevalence – Resident population (2025)

- The proportion of **0- to 25-year-old residents with EHCPs** has continued to **increase**, rising from 3.1% in 2024 to 3.29% in 2025. However, this **growth rate** was **slower than average**, and Wandsworth now ranks in the **lowest quartile** of England local authorities for the relative size of their EHCP cohort
- Similarly, the proportion of 0- to 25-year-olds issued with a **new EHCP increased** from 0.38% in 2024 to 0.43% in 2025, but remains **lower** than the **England** average
- At 36.7%, a particularly **high proportion** of the **EHCP cohort** are **aged between 5 and 10**, with Wandsworth ranking **second highest** among statistical neighbours and in the **highest quartile** of England local authorities
- In contrast, the proportions of the **EHCP cohort aged under 5** and from **11 to 15** are both particularly **small**, with Wandsworth ranking in the **lowest quartile** of England local authorities for both age groups.

## Prevalence – Looked after children and children in need (2024)

- Wandsworth has a **very high** proportion of **children on child protection plans** with **EHCPs**. At 24%, this is the **3<sup>rd</sup> highest** proportion across England and the **highest** among statistical neighbours
- The proportion of **children in need (excluding CPP)** with an **EHCP** is similarly **high**, with Wandsworth ranking **11<sup>th</sup> highest** across England and **highest** among statistical neighbours
- In contrast, despite **increasing** from 2023 to 2024, the proportion of **children in need (excluding CPP)** with **SEN Support** remains particularly **low**, with Wandsworth continuing to rank in the **lowest quartile** of England local authorities

## Prevalence and primary need – School population (2025)

- Wandsworth's **EHCP and SEN Support cohorts** have both **continued to grow** from 2024 to 2025, and both remain **larger** than **statistical neighbour** and **England** averages
- In particular, Wandsworth has the **7<sup>th</sup> largest** cohort of **primary EHCP** pupils across England, and the **11<sup>th</sup> largest** cohort of **secondary EHCP** pupils
- Despite **decreasing** from 2024, the proportion of **AP/PRU pupils with SEN Support** remains much **higher than average**. At just over **three in four pupils** (77.1%), this places Wandsworth in the **highest quartile** of **England** local authorities
- Wandsworth has a **smaller than average** proportion of **EHCP pupils** with a **primary need** of **autistic spectrum disorder**; at 11.6% this is the **second smallest** proportion among **statistical neighbours** and places Wandsworth in the **lowest quartile** of **England** local authorities
- The proportion of **EHCP pupils** with either **specific** or **moderate learning difficulty** as **their primary need** is similarly **below** both the statistical neighbour and England average. However in contrast the **severe learning difficulty** primary need cohort is the **10<sup>th</sup> largest** across England.

## B. Assessment & Provision

*How effectively does the local area assess and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND?*

Wandsworth's EHCP request rate has continued to increase, but remains low in comparison to the England average. Over half of Wandsworth's EHCP pupils attend mainstream settings, with the proportion attending resourced state-funded mainstream provision one of the largest across England. However, there remains a large proportion that are placed into independent or non-maintained schools. This is likely to be partly driving the larger than average top-up funding budget for independent providers.

### Implementation (2024)

- The number of **initial requests for an EHCP assessment** has **continued to increase**; now at 574 this is equivalent to 0.6% of residents aged 0 to 25. However, this remains **below** both the **statistical neighbour** and **England** averages, with Wandsworth continuing to rank in the **lowest quartile** of England local authorities
- The **refusal rate** has **continued to decrease**, and at 19.3% of requests, is now **much lower** than both the **statistical neighbour** and **England** averages
- The proportion of **EHCPs which were discontinued** is relatively **large**; at 10.7% this places Wandsworth in the **highest quartile** of England local authorities
- In particular, the number of **EHCPs discontinued** because the young person **no longer wishes to engage in education** has **almost doubled** from the previous year, and now comprises **around a third** of all ceased EHCPs
- In 2024 Wandsworth was **one of only four** local authorities across England to **issue all EHCPs (inc. exceptional cases) within the 20-week target** - this is **more than double** the England average of 45.9%.

## Provision for EHCP pupils (2025)

- Wandsworth has a **higher than average** proportion of **EHCP pupils** attending **state-funded mainstream provision**
- In particular, at 11.7%, the proportion of **EHCP pupils** attending **resourced state-funded mainstream provision** is the **highest** among statistical neighbours and the **7<sup>th</sup> highest** across England
- The proportion of **EHCP pupils** attending **independent or non-maintained provision** also remains **high**; at 10% this is the **15<sup>th</sup> highest** proportion across all England local authorities
- In contrast, the proportion of **EHCP pupils** attending **post-16 institutions** is **one of the smallest** across England, despite the proportion of Wandsworth's EHCP cohort aged between 16 and 25 being broadly in line with the England average

## Cross Border Movement (2025)

- Wandsworth remains a **large net importer of special school pupils**, with almost a third (29%) of **pupils attending state-funded special schools in Wandsworth living in other local authorities**
- In contrast, **11.4%** of state-funded **special school pupils living in Wandsworth attend school in another local authority**.

## Adult Social Care (2024)

- Despite increasing again in 2024, up to 78.1%, the proportion of **adults receiving long term support for learning disabilities** who live **at home or with family** remained below the England average. Wandsworth still ranks in the **bottom half of local authorities** in England for this measure
- The number of **adults with long term support needs** being met by **care homes** is now less **than a third** of the England **average** (per 100k 18-64 year-olds).

## Finance (2025/26 financial year)

- The budget for **top-up funding** for **independent** providers rose by £1.5m to £16.7m in 2025/26. Per capita, this is **above** the England **average**, likely driven by the relatively large proportion of Wandsworth's EHCP cohort placed in independent schools
- The gross per capita **SEN transport budget** for pre-16-year-olds remained in the **highest quartile in England** after more than doubling since 2023/24
- The budget for **SEN administration, assessment & monitoring** also remains **one of the largest in England** per capita.

## C. Outcomes

*How effectively does the local area improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND?*

From year 1 through to KS4, both the EHCP and SEN Support cohorts in Wandsworth achieved very high levels of attainment and progress, with particularly strong attainment for the SEN Support cohort. At KS5, the performance of both EHCP and SEN Support students was less strong, though qualification rates by age 19 remain well above England averages. SEND pupil absence rates were mostly below England averages, particularly in mainstream secondary schools, and Wandsworth's suspension and exclusion rates generally remain far below average.

### Primary attainment (2025 provisional)

- In 2024, just 24% of **SEN Support** pupils achieved a **good level of development** (GLD) in the **EYFSP**, **down** from 31% in 2023. This meant Wandsworth fell below the England average, having ranked **19<sup>th</sup>** highest in England in 2023
- At 4%, the percentage of **EYFS** pupils with an **EHCP** achieving a **GLD** in Wandsworth remained **in line** with the England **average** in 2024
- In 2025, Wandsworth's **SEN Support** cohort again **performed well** in **year 1 phonics**, ranking in the **top 25 local authorities in England** for the proportion achieving the expected phonics standard
- Wandsworth's **SEN Support** cohort's performance at **KS2** also remained among the strongest local authorities in England, consistently ranking in the **top 10 local authorities in England** across headline attainment measures
- In particular, 45.5% of **SEN Support** pupils met the **expected or higher standard** in **reading, writing and maths** (combined), which was the **6<sup>th</sup> highest** proportion of all local authorities in England
- The **KS2 EHCP** cohort **performed less well**, with just 10.3% meeting the **expected or higher standard** in **reading, writing and maths** (combined) in 2025. While this remains above the England average, it is below Wandsworth's statistical neighbour average
- In 2023 (the latest available KS2 progress data) KS2 **progress scores** in reading, writing and maths were also **higher** than the **England averages** for both the **SEN Support** and **EHCP** cohorts. **Reading progress** was particularly strong for **EHCP** pupils, with Wandsworth ranking **5<sup>th</sup> best in England** in 2023
- In 2023 (the latest available KS1 data), both **SEN Support** and **EHCP** pupils **achieved the expected or higher standards at KS1** at high rates, consistently ranking in the **top quartile** of local authorities. Performance in **KS1 writing** was particularly **strong**, with both cohorts ranking in the **top 20 local authorities**.

### KS4 attainment (2025 provisional)

- Both the **EHCP** and **SEN Support** cohorts in Wandsworth again **outperformed England and statistical neighbour averages** across KS4 headline measures
- At 43.5, Wandsworth's average **Attainment 8** score for **SEN Support** pupils was the **6<sup>th</sup> highest in England**, about a grade higher than the average for SEN Support pupils across England. The average **Progress 8** score in 2024 (the latest data available) for SEN Support pupils was +0.24, the **3<sup>rd</sup> best in England**
- Additionally, 57% of the **SEN Support** cohort achieved **at least a grade 4** in both **English and maths**, the **8<sup>th</sup> highest rate** in England
- An increase of 7% points in the proportion of **EHCP** pupils achieving **at least a grade 4** in **English and maths** has placed Wandsworth in the **top performing quartile** of all local authorities in England
- **English Baccalaureate** performance was strong again in 2025. At 22%, the proportion of the **SEN Support** pupils that achieved **at least a 4** in the full **English Baccalaureate** was the **3<sup>rd</sup> highest** of all **local authorities in England**, partly driven by a very high **English Baccalaureate entry** rate (46%).

### Post-16 attainment (2024 revised)

- The KS5 **average point score** per **academic entry** for both **EHCP** and **SEN Support** students **remained below the England averages**
  - This is particularly noteworthy as both cohorts had performed very well in KS4. This may be partly explained by the much larger than average proportion of SEND students entering Level 3 academic qualifications in Wandsworth, meaning the cohort may include those with lower prior attainment than equivalent cohorts elsewhere
- The **Applied General average point scores** for both **EHCP** and **SEN Support** students improved from 2023, both rising above the **statistical neighbour averages**
- **Level 2 and 3 qualification rates** by age 19 were **very high** in Wandsworth, for **both EHCP** and **SEN Support** students
- Conversely to the trend across England, the proportion of **EHCP students** qualified to **Level 2 by age 19** has **increased** from 2023 to 2024, placing Wandsworth in the **highest performing quartile** of **England** local authorities
- In contrast, the proportion of **SEN Support students** qualified **to Level 2 by age 19** has **decreased** by 7.6% points since 2023, although at 75.1% this remains **much higher** than the **England** average
- Similarly, Wandsworth has the **6<sup>th</sup> highest** proportion of **SEN Support students** qualified to **Level 2 including English and maths by age 19**, despite **falling** by 7% to 61.3% in 2024

### Pupil destinations (2024 provisional)

- The proportions of **EHCP** and **SEN Support** pupils remaining in **education, employment or training after KS4 fell** in 2024, though both **remain above** the England averages
- There was a **fall** in the proportion of **EHCP** pupils going onto **FE** colleges or other FE providers after KS4. For both the EHCP and SEN Support cohorts, the proportion going onto FE was among the lowest in England
- In contrast, 56.7% of the **SEN Support** cohort went onto **sixth forms** after KS4, which is the **second largest proportion** of any local authority in England
- The proportion of **SEN** students remaining in **education, employment or training** after **KS5** school **increased slightly** to 77% in 2024, but was still in the lowest quartile in England
- This has been primarily driven by a large **fall**, from 2022, in the proportion of **SEN** students going onto a **UK higher education institution** after KS5 (school), now at 48.7%.

### NEET and participation (2025)

- The proportion of **16- and 17-year-olds with an EHCP** who remain in **education and training** has **decreased** from 2024 to 2025. Now at 90.1%, this is **below** the **statistical neighbour** average, though it remains **higher** than the **England** average
- In contrast, the **education and training** participation rate for **16- and 17-year-olds with SEN Support** has **increased**, with Wandsworth continuing to rank in the **highest performing quartile** of **England** local authorities for this measure.

## Absence (2023/24 Full Year)

- Wandsworth's **SEND** pupil **absence** rates were **lower** than the England **averages** across nearly all headline measures
- In particular, absence rates for both the **EHCP** and **SEN Support** cohorts in mainstream Wandsworth **secondary** schools were some of the **lowest in England**. Both the **overall** and **persistent** absentee rate for **secondary EHCP** pupils were the **5<sup>th</sup> lowest** of all local authorities **in England**
- Across **all phases**, 3.4% of the **EHCP** cohort were **severely absent** (missing 50% of sessions or more), which was **half** the England **average**, and the 14<sup>th</sup> lowest rate in England
- However, at 40.9%, the **persistent** absentee rate for pupils in Wandsworth **special schools** now ranks in the **bottom quartile** of local authorities **in England**.

## Exclusions (2023/24 Full Year)

- In line with the trend across England, **suspension and exclusion rates** for both **EHCP** and **SEN Support pupils** in Wandsworth have **increased** from 2023 to 2024, though on the whole Wandsworth **continues to perform well** compared to **England** averages across both **primary** and **secondary** phases
- In particular, at only 8.1%, the **suspension rate** for **SEN Support pupils** across all schools in Wandsworth was **less than a third** of the **England** average, and **around half** of the **statistical neighbour** average
- The **suspension rate** for **EHCP pupils** in Wandsworth's **primary schools** has **doubled** from the previous year, although at 10.1% this is still only **just over half** the England average of 18.9%
- Only **11 SEND pupils** were **permanently excluded** in 2024, of which 8 were **secondary pupils** with **SEN Support** and 3 were **EHCP pupils** attending **special schools**.

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