

## **Common SEND Acronyms and Diagnoses in England**

### **General Education Acronyms**

**A-level:** Advanced Level

**ALS:** Additional Learning Support

**DfE:** Department for Education

**E1/2/3:** entry level 1/2/3

**EHCP:** Education, Health and Care Plan

**EYFS:** Early Years Foundation Stage

**FE:** further education

**FS:** functional skills

**FSM:** free school meals

**GCSE:** General Certificate of Secondary Education

**HE:** higher education

**KS1/KS2/KS3/KS4:** Key Stage 1/2/3/4

**LA:** Local Authority

**LAC:** looked after child

**NEET:** Not in Education, Employment, or Training

**Ofsted:** Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills

**PEP:** Personal education plan – for looked after children/young people

**PP:** pupil premium

**PRU:** Pupil Referral Unit

**SEND:** Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

**SMART:** Smart, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-scaled targets

## **SEND-Specific Acronyms**

**ADHD:** Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

**AP:** Alternative Provision

**AR:** Annual Review (of an EHCP)

**ASC:** Autism Spectrum Condition

**CAMHS:** Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

**CIN:** Child in Need

**CoP:** SEND Code of Practice

**CP:** Child Protection

**EHENA:** Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment

**EHCP:** Education, Health and Care Plan

**EHWB:** Emotional Health and Wellbeing

**ELSA:** Emotional Literacy Support Assistant

**EP:** Educational Psychologist

**HI:** Hearing Impairment

**IPSEA:** Independent Provider of Special Education Advice

**LSA:** Learning Support Assistant

**MAO:** Multi-Agency Officer

**MLD:** Moderate Learning Difficulty

**MSI:** Multi-Sensory Impairment

**NASEN:** National Association for Special Educational Needs

**OT:** Occupational Therapy

**PMLD:** Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties

**PRU:** Pupil Referral Unit

**SALT or SLT:** Speech and Language Therapy

### **Support Acronyms**

**SEMH:** Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs

**SEN:** Special Educational Needs

**SENDCo or SENCo:** Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator

**SLD:** Severe Learning Difficulty

**SpLD:** Specific Learning Difficulty

**TA:** Teaching Assistant

**TAC:** Team Around the Child

**TAF:** Team Around the Family

**VI:** Visual Impairment

### **Legislation and Assessment Acronyms**

**CAF:** Common Assessment Framework (now largely replaced by EHA)

**CFA:** Children and Families Act 2014

**DDA:** Disability Discrimination Act

**EA 2010:** Equality Act 2010

**EHA:** Early Help Assessment

**GDPR:** General Data Protection Regulation

**SEND COP:** SEND code of practice January 2025

**SENDIST or SEND Tribunal:** Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

## **Common SEND-Related Diagnoses and Conditions**

**ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder):** A subtype of ADHD without the hyperactivity.

**ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder):** A condition with symptoms of inattentiveness, hyperactivity, and impulsiveness.

**Anxiety (Anxiety):** Can be generalised or specific, such as school-related.

**ASC (Autism Spectrum Condition):** A developmental condition affecting communication, interaction, and behaviour.

**Depression (Depression):** A mood disorder affecting thoughts, emotions, and physical health.

**DLD (Developmental Language Disorder):** Affects expressive and/or receptive language.

**Dyscalculia (Dyscalculia):** Affects numerical understanding.

**Dysgraphia (Dysgraphia):** Affects writing ability and fine motor skills.

**Dyslexia (Dyslexia):** A specific learning difficulty affecting reading and spelling.

**Dyspraxia or DCD (Developmental Coordination Disorder):** Affects physical coordination.

**EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance):** This term acknowledges that the pupil's difficulty attending school is rooted in emotional factors, rather than being a behavioural choice

**FASD (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder):** Caused by alcohol exposure during pregnancy.

**GDD (Global Developmental Delay):** Delays across multiple areas of development

**HI (Hearing Impairment):** Partial or complete loss of hearing.

**MLD (Moderate Learning Difficulty):** Below-average intellectual ability affecting progress.

**MSI (Multi-Sensory Impairment):** Combined vision and hearing impairments.

**ODD (Oppositional Defiant Disorder):** A behaviour need characterised by oppositional stances made by the young person that may look like - defiance, hostility.

**PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance):** A profile within the autism spectrum involving extreme avoidance of everyday demands, based on anxiety – this is a 'I can't' not a 'I will not'.

**PMLD (Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties):** Complex learning needs including physical and sensory disabilities.

**PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder):** Triggered by traumatic events – what might be traumatic to one may not be to another

**SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs):** Emotional and behavioural difficulties that impact learning.

**SLCN (Speech, Language and Communication Needs):** Difficulties in understanding or using spoken language.

**SLD (Severe Learning Difficulty):** Significantly below-'average' cognitive ability.

**SpLD (Specific Learning Difficulty):** Conditions including dyslexia, dyspraxia, and dyscalculia.

**Tourette's (Tourette Syndrome):** A neurological condition with involuntary tics be these physical or vocal.

**VI (Visual Impairment):** Partial or complete loss of vision.

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