



STOKE-ON-TRENT  
PARENT PARTNERSHIP

# *Statutory Assessment*

**This leaflet explains what a statutory assessment is. You may want to ask a grown up to read it with you.**

# **Why might I need a statutory assessment?**

Some young people find parts of school tricky. You might be given some extra help to make things a little easier. This help might be within the classroom in a small group or even on your own with an adult.

Some young people might not be able to cope in school all of the time and may only be at school for a few hours every day in the short term. Obviously this can't go on forever and school need to find a way to help you to return to school full time.

## **What is a statutory assessment?**

Schools or your parents can ask a part of the local council (or Local Authority - LA) to look at whether you may need more help or special equipment in school to help you to enjoy school more and learn more easily.

The local council may decide to carry out what's called a 'statutory assessment'. This is where they collect information about things that you are good at and the things that you find tricky in school. A group of people, known as 'the panel', will look at all of this information and decide what extra help you need in school.

## How long will it take?

From start to finish a statutory assessment will take around 26 weeks (half a year). This 26 weeks can be broken down into smaller parts. This diagram shows what will happen when.

The LA will look at the information that your school or parents have sent to them and decide whether or not they will carry out a statutory assessment.

**6 weeks**



The LA will ask different people, including you, for information and reports about how you are getting on at school. See 'who will be involved?' for more information.

The LA will collect all this information together and give it to the panel of people. The panel will look at all the information carefully and decide whether or not you need extra help in school.

**10 weeks**



The LA will send your parents a letter explaining the panel's decision. This may contain a special document called a statement, which gives information about the things you are struggling with and what school need to do to help you to learn more easily. This is just a draft copy at the moment.

Your parents can write a letter to the LA to tell them what they think of your statement.

**2 weeks**



The LA will send your parents a copy of the final statement. A copy will also be sent to the school. This statement will last for 12 months and will then be reviewed by your school, your parents and you.

**8 weeks**

## Who will be involved?

A statutory assessment is nothing to be worried about.

As we've said, the LA will ask different people for information or reports on how you're getting on at school. These people will include:

**Your school** - your teachers will write a report on the things that you're good at the things that you find difficult. They will tell the LA about all the help you get at school.

**Your parents** - your parents will be asked to fill in a form all about you. Your parents may ask you how you feel about school and help you to record your thoughts, feelings and what you think might help you at school.

**You** - It is important that you give your opinions during the statutory assessments. Someone at school may ask you how you feel about school and help you to record your thoughts, feelings and what you think might help you at school. You can also include information about the parts of school that you enjoy as well as the things that you are good at.

**An Educational Psychologist** - This is a specialist person who looks at how children learn. He or she will come and visit you at school. They may watch you in class. They will ask you some questions and ask you to complete some little tasks. This is nothing to worry about and you should just do the best you can.

**A doctor** - Your Parents will be sent an appointment for you to go and see a special doctor called a paediatrician. The doctor will check your sight, hearing, balance and co-ordination. They may ask you questions or ask you to do little tasks. Don't worry, your parents will be able to stay with you all of the time.

**Other people** - if you see any other specialists like a speech therapist on a regular basis then the LA will ask them for a report on how you are getting on.

Social services will be asked if they have worked with you or your family.

## What happens in the mean time?

26 weeks is a long time. Whilst you are waiting for the statutory assessment to be completed, your school will carry on giving you all the help that they have been doing. It is important that you still go to school whilst waiting for the LA to finish the statutory assessment.

## **What could happen when the assessment is finished?**

If the LA has given you a statement then you will get some extra help in school. This extra help will depend on what your statement says. The school might find an extra person to help you in class. They may take you somewhere a bit quieter for some parts of the day. You might work in a smaller group. A special teacher might come into school to work with you. You can ask your school or parents to explain what extra help you will be getting.

## **Can I stay at the same school when the assessment is finished?**

It is important that all young people go to the school that's best for them. Most young people who get a statement will stay at the school they already attend.

For some young people there might be a different school that can help them to learn more easily. If you need to change school you will get the chance to go and have a look around . Your parents will talk to the LA about the school that you will attend.

# **Will all my friends find out?**

It is up to you whether you tell your friends about the statutory assessment. Your teachers won't tell other pupils about it so if you want to keep it to yourself then that's ok. Some young people might want to tell their friends and this is ok too - it's totally up to you!

## **Who can I talk to if I'm worried about this?**

If you want more information about your statutory assessment you can talk to your parents or someone at school.

If you come up with a question that your parents aren't sure about then they can give us a call and we'll help if we can. Our telephone number is 01782 234701.

## **The Stoke-on-Trent Parent Partnership Service**

**Mount Education Support Centre  
Mount Avenue  
Penkhull  
Stoke-on-Trent  
ST4 7JU**

**Tel: (01782) 234701**

**Fax: (01782) 236858**

**E-mail: [parent.partnership@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:parent.partnership@stoke.gov.uk)**

**Website: [www.parent-partnership-stoke.co.uk](http://www.parent-partnership-stoke.co.uk)**

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