

# ■ Knowing Your Rights & Your Child's Rights in Education (SEND)

## 1■■ The Law on Your Side

- Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice protect your child's right to the support they need.
- Local authorities must identify and meet the needs of children with SEND.

## 2■■ Education, Health & Care (EHC) Plans

- If your child needs more help than a mainstream school can usually provide, you can request an EHC needs assessment.
- An EHCP is a legal document: the support written in it must be delivered.

## 3■■ Reasonable Adjustments

- Under the Equality Act 2010, schools (including academies and nurseries) must make reasonable adjustments so disabled pupils aren't disadvantaged—think accessibility, extra time, sensory breaks, etc.

## 4■■ Your Voice Matters

- You have the right to be involved in decisions about your child's education and to receive information in a way you understand.
- If you disagree with a decision, you can challenge it:
  - Internal school/LA complaints
  - Mediation
  - Tribunal appeal (SENDIST)

## 5■■ Support Along the Way

- SENDIASS: Free, impartial advice for parents and young people.
- Independent charities (IPSEA, Contact, SOS!SEN) offer guidance and letter templates.
- Parent carer forums and local support groups can share lived experience.

## ■ Top Tip for Families

Keep a simple folder or digital file of letters, emails, meeting notes, and reports. A clear paper trail makes it easier to secure—and maintain—the support your child deserves.