

Specialist Resource Provision

A Specialist Resource Provision Unit (SRP) is a specialist provision, operated by a mainstream school or academy or other setting, with delegated funding provided by the local authority. The school has been commissioned by the local authority to provide services detailed in a Service Level Agreement or Service Contract.

Specialist resource units provide teaching and support to meet the needs of individual pupils and offers opportunity for assessment and planning around individual needs. Depending on individual needs, *it is expected that pupils are supported to spend the majority of their time accessing mainstream provision.*

There are key differences in terms of provision for a pupil in an SRP and a pupil in a Special School which require them to be funded differently as follows:

- For a pupil in a Special School the curriculum offer is bespoke to the needs of the school pupil cohort and staff team are focussed on the delivery of that curriculum albeit with elements of personalisation. A mainstream curriculum model is not a significant factor in such a setting. All learners in the school will have special educational needs and a Statement of SEN, or in the future an Education, Health and Care Plan
- For a pupil in an SRP 'inclusion' in the mainstream is the key aim. The definition indicates that it is expected that pupils will, 'spend the majority of their time accessing the mainstream provision'. The learners in the SRP will represent a very small proportion of the school roll and, in this context, the school will need to make adjustments so that they can access learning alongside pupils without SEN. In this sense therefore an SRP 'top up' has to support both the scenarios of a pupil being in a small group with a high staff to pupil ratio' (the special school element) as well as supporting the pupil to achieve in the mainstream environment of the school.

The key differences will be reflected in two ways:

1. "Access to mainstream" supplement
2. ASC supplement - where the primary need has been identified as ASC in the SRP a supplement will be applied; this will be at a higher rate than the ASC supplement available to special schools (for Band 1 ASC pupils) to reflect the key differences in meeting needs in an SRP provision

The point being that the 'offer' for a pupil in an place SRP has a greater breadth and complexity due to the need to provide support across two different educational contexts. An example may be that additional therapeutic or behavioural support may be needed in an SRP context and communication and support from other key stakeholders costs are magnified due to the physical size and numbers of staff who may need to be involved in the mainstream.