

Birmingham's Ordinarily Available Guidance (OAG)

A guide for parent carers and families

What is the OAG?

The OAG is Birmingham's shared guidance for all mainstream schools.

It explains the support that should be available for children and young people every day.

- It is for all children, not just those with a diagnosis or EHCP.
- It helps schools act early when a child needs extra help.
- It gives everyone shared language and expectations.
- It explains what schools can do with their usual resources.

What does this mean for your child?

Schools are expected to:

- notice when your child is finding things difficult
- adapt teaching and routines to remove barriers
- put support in place early
- work in partnership with you
- begin support without waiting for a diagnosis

How schools use the OAG

Schools use the OAG to:

- develop inclusive classroom practice
- make changes and adaptations
- decide what extra support may be needed
- Talk with parents about next steps

It helps teachers to think about:

- What are we noticing?
- What can we try now?
- What is working? What needs to change?

Using the Parent Carer Guides

There are 10 short Parent Carer Guides you can use if you want more information.

Each guide explains what schools aim to provide, what this might look like in practice, how you can be involved.

You can read them as needed. You do not have to read them all.

Working Together

You know your child best. Schools value your knowledge and experience.

You can help by:

- sharing what you notice at home
- asking how the OAG is being used
- asking part in review meetings
- raising concerns early

Working together helps schools put the right support in place at the right time.

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When children need more support

Children's needs can change over time.

Some children need extra help for a short time. Others may need support that is reviewed and changed over longer periods of time.

When a child needs more support, schools may:

- **adjust teaching and routines further**
- **Give additional or more targeted support**
- **seek advice from specialists**
- **work with you as part of a wider team around your child**

How support changes over time

Children's needs can change. Support is not a one-off decision.

Schools use a step-by-step approach to think about what is happening, review what is working and decide what to do next. This keeps support flexible and responsive.

How schools make and review decisions

To guide decisions, schools use a simple cycle called:



 **Assess** - Understanding strengths, needs and barriers.

 **Plan** - Deciding what to try next.

 **Do** - Putting support in place.

 **Review** - Looking at what has changed and deciding next steps.

Where you can find more support

Birmingham Local Offer Website - Information about SEND services and support.

www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk

Parent Carer Forums - Connect with other parents, share experiences and get advice.

School SENCo - Talk to your child's school about any concerns.

Family Hubs - Local support, workshops and activities.