

Children and young people with SEND in Tower Hamlets: an overview

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This annex provides a brief overview of children and young people with SEND in Tower Hamlets, as background to the SEND and Inclusion strategy 2024 – 29.
- 1.2 A SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (in preparation) will replace this briefing, providing analysis and insight, drawing on wider research and comparative data, and with an in-depth focus on different SEND needs.
- 1.3 The recent Tower Hamlets SEND Sufficiency Review (November 2023) reviewed trends and pupil level data for EHCPs and specialist placements, alongside projections of future SEND needs to 2030. These projections are not included here.

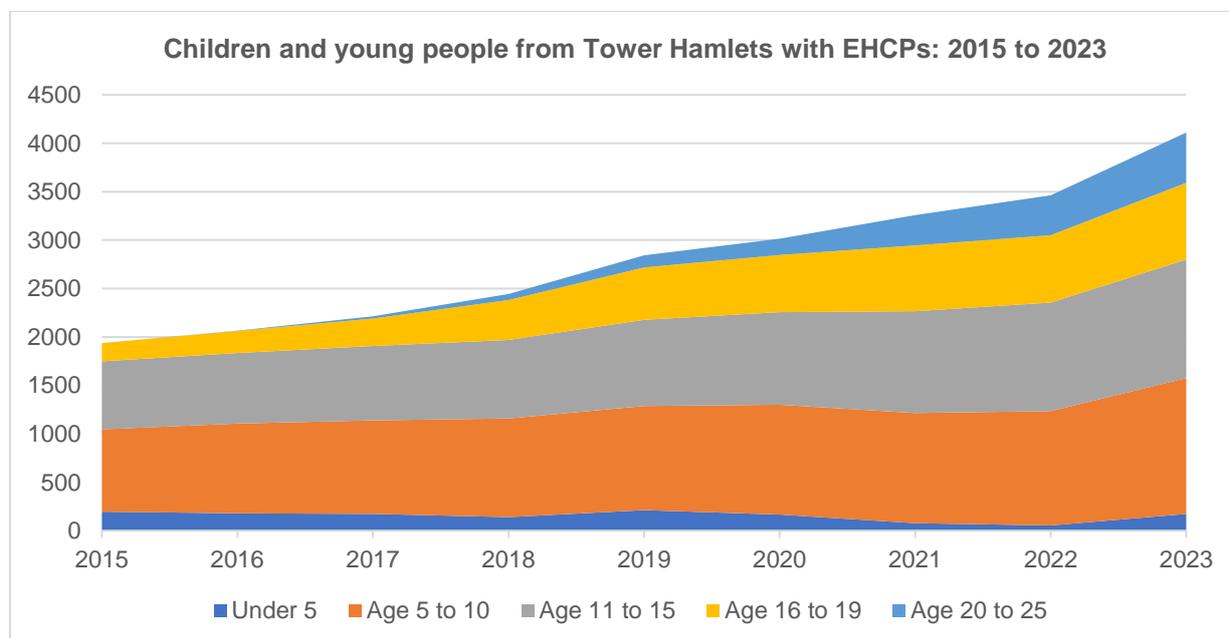
2. A note on data sources

2.1 The main data on SEND come from two sources:

- Information about pupils in schools in Tower Hamlets including pupils from other boroughs who are educated in Tower Hamlets. This information comes from the annual school census. It includes information about pupils with SEN support and EHC plans, but only includes school age children and young people.
- Information about those children and young people from Tower Hamlets with an Education, Health and Care Plan. It covers 0-24 year olds.

3. The number and proportion of children and young people with SEND

3.1 There has been a steady increase in children and young people from Tower Hamlets with EHCPs since 2015, across all age groups except the under 5's.



(source: Education, health and care plans, national statistics)

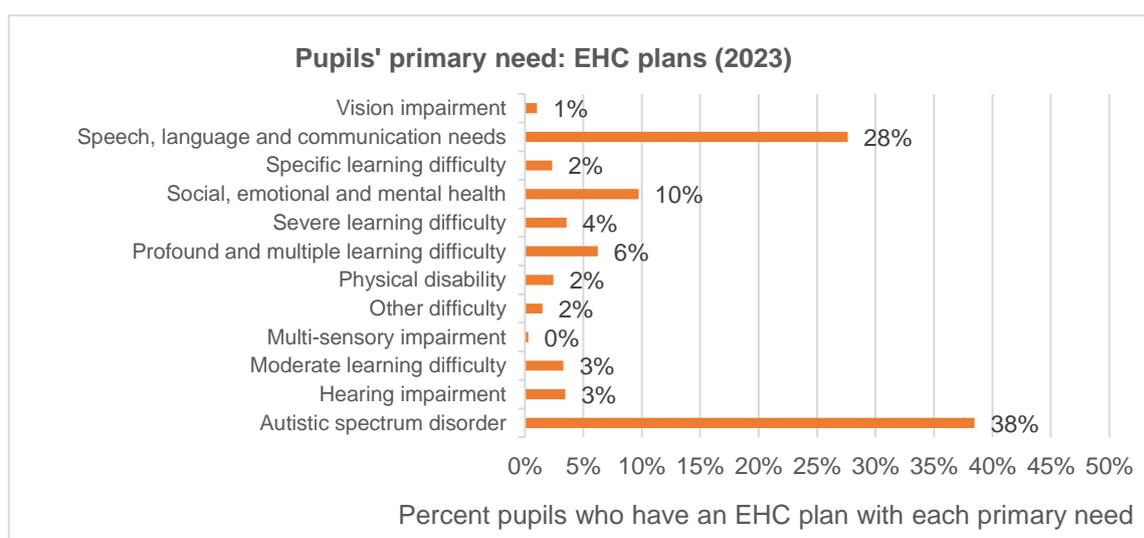
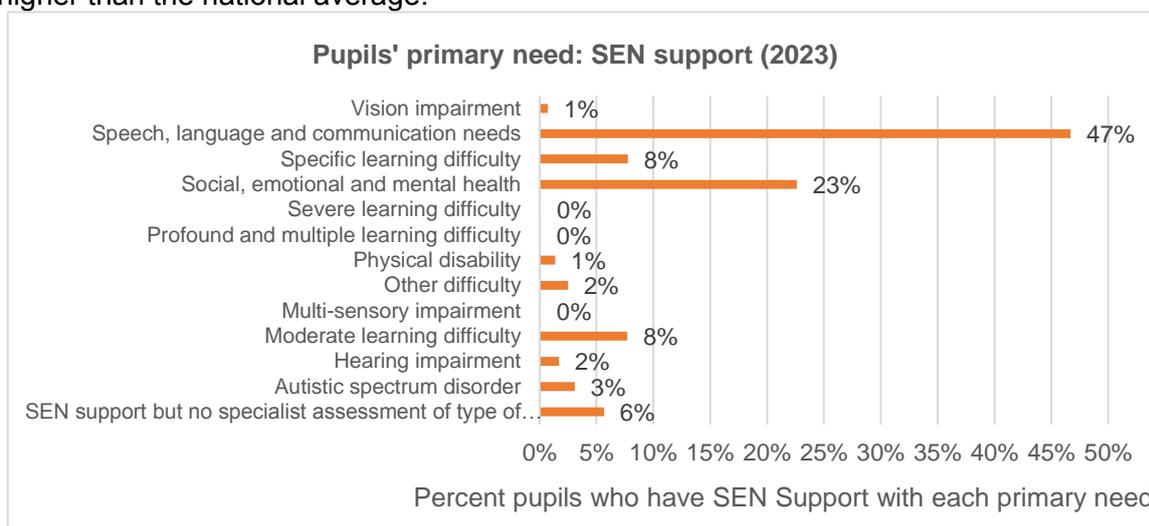
3.2 Tower Hamlets schools have a higher than average proportion of pupils with SEND. The percentage of pupils with an EHCP was the fifth highest in England in 2023.

2023	Tower Hamlets	London	England
Percent of all pupils with SEN Support	12.4%	12.1%	13%
Percent of all pupils with an EHCP	5.9%	4.5%	4.3%
Total: Percentage of Pupils with SEN	18.3%	16.6%	17.3%

(source: Special educational needs in England 2023, national statistics)

4. The needs of children and young people with SEND

The figures below show the ‘primary needs’ recorded for pupils in Tower Hamlets schools with SEN support and EHC Plans. In many cases, a child will have a range of needs which are not fully reflected in the classifications below. Out of pupils in Tower Hamlets schools who have SEN support, by far the most common needs are speech, language and communication needs, and social, emotional and mental health needs. Out of pupils with EHC plans, the most common needs are autistic spectrum disorder, and speech, language and communication needs. This reflects the national profile, although rates of autism are higher than the national average.



(source: Special educational needs in England 2023, national statistics)

5. The profile of children and young people with SEND

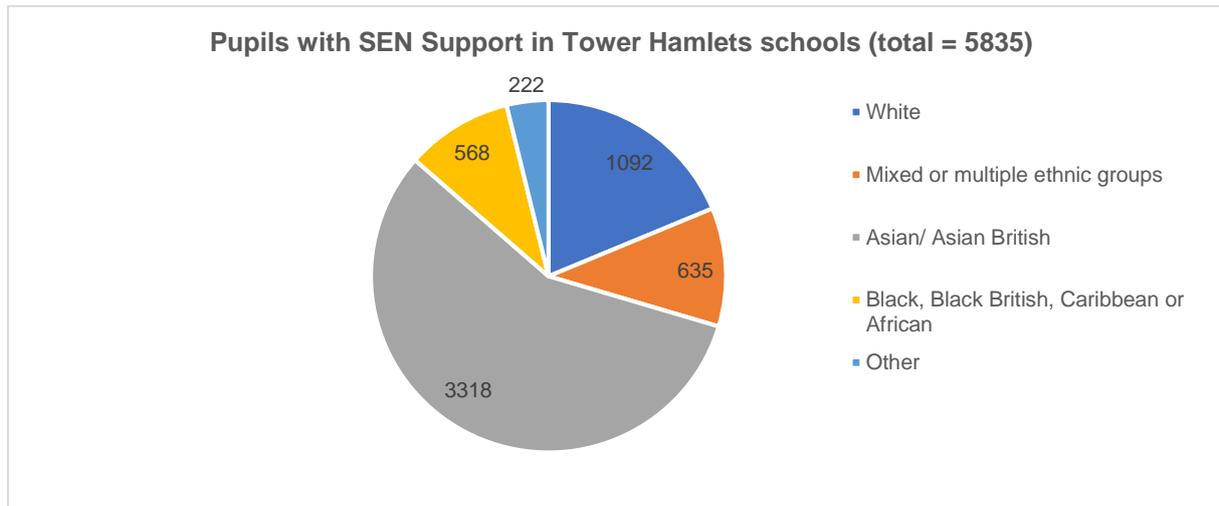
5.1 Boys are overrepresented amongst children and young people with SEND. Nearly 1 in 4 boys in Tower Hamlets schools had SEND in 2023, compared to around 1 in 8 girls.

Percentage of boys and girls in Tower Hamlets schools receiving support for SEND (2023)

	All pupils in Tower Hamlets schools	Boys in Tower Hamlets schools	Girls in Tower Hamlets schools
SEN Support	12.6%	15.4%	9.8%
EHC Plans	6.0%	8.9%	3.1%
Total pupils with SEND	18.6%	24.3%	12.9%

5.2 Pupils from an Asian and particularly Bangladeshi background make up a large majority of pupils in Tower Hamlets schools, and nearly 6 in 10 pupils with SEN Support or an EHCP are of an Asian background.

Ethnic background of pupils receiving SEN support in Tower Hamlets schools (2023)



Ethnic background of pupils with EHC Plans in Tower Hamlets schools (2023)

5.3 However, a pupil from an Asian background is less likely to be receiving SEN support or to have an EHC Plan than a pupil from a White background. Pupils from Black/Black African backgrounds are less likely to be receiving SEN support than pupils from White backgrounds.

Percentage of pupils from different ethnic backgrounds in Tower Hamlets schools receiving support for SEND (2023)

	All pupils	White	Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	Asian/ Asian British	Black/Black British/Caribbean or African	Other
SEN Support	12.6%	18.4%	17.5%	10.9%	13.2%	12.3%
EHC plans	6.0%	7.1%	6.0%	5.7%	7.4%	5.2%
No SEN	81.3%	74.6%	76.6%	83.4%	79.4%	82.5%

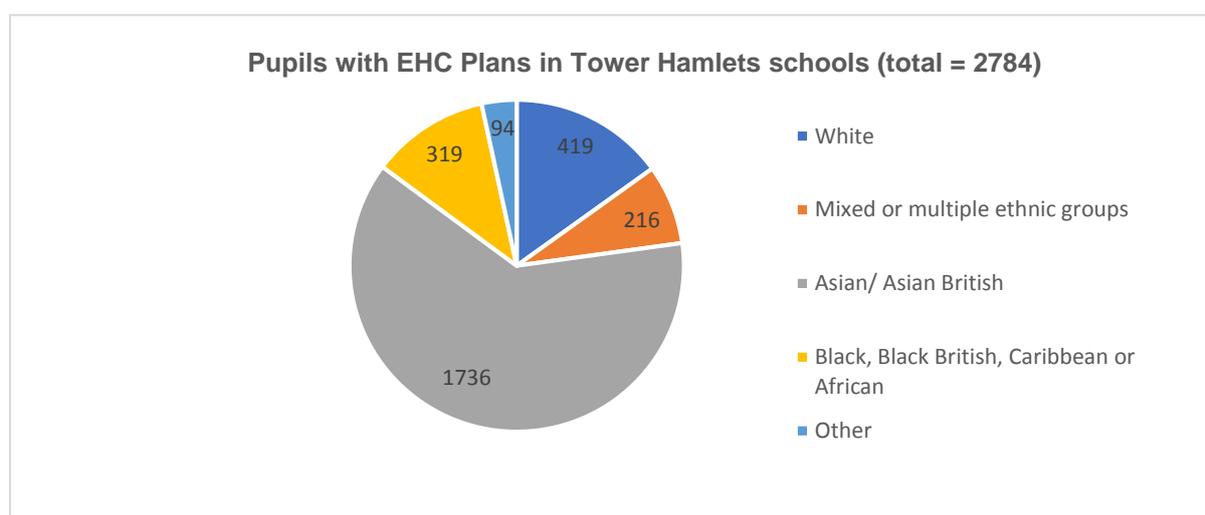
5.4 Pupils who receive means-tested free school meals because they are in lower income families are more likely than average to receive SEN Support or to have an Education, health and Care Plan.

Percentage of pupils in receipt and not in receipt of means-tested free school meals in Tower Hamlets schools receiving support for SEND (2023)

	All pupils	Pupils who are not eligible for means-tested free school meals	Pupils who are eligible for means-tested free school meals
SEN Support	12.6%	10.6%	15.8%
EHC plans	6.0%	4.8%	7.9%
No SEN	81.3%	84.6%	76.3%

6. Where children and young people with SEND are educated

The tables below show where pupils with EHCPs and SEN support are educated in Tower Hamlets schools. Tower Hamlets has comparatively higher numbers of pupils with EHC plans in mainstream settings than national and London averages.



Numbers and Percentages of Pupils with EHCPs within each setting (2023)

	Tower Hamlets		London		England	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Independent School	105	4.2	4,885	3.3	28,732	4.9
Non-Maintained Special School	N/A	N/A	252	100	3,995	98.2
State Funded AP school	19	14.2	490	22.8	3,368	25.5
State Funded Nursery	12	3.5	137	1.7	673	1.8
State Funded Primary	1,126	4.5	23,052	3.3	117,757	2.5
State Funded Secondary	861	4.4	15,842	2.7	87,219	2.4
State Funded Special	766	99.7	20,687	97.4	147,427	98.9
Total	2,889	5.9	65,345	4.5	389,171	4.3

Numbers and Percentages of Pupils with SEN Support within each setting (2023)

	Tower Hamlets		London		England	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Independent School	203	8.1	20,645	13.8	89,840	15.2
Non-Maintained Special School	N/A	N/A	0	0	57	1.4
State Funded AP school	82	61.2	1,251	58.2	7,518	57.0
State Funded Nursery	60	17.4	1,591	20.1	6,381	17.0
State Funded Primary	3,562	14.1	88,692	12.6	629,184	13.5
State Funded Secondary	2,129	10.8	64,364	11.1	448,967	12.4
State Funded Special	2	0.3	456	2.1	1,437	1.0
Total	6,038	12.4	176,999	12.1	1,183,384	13.0