



Shropshire
Council

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) for 0-25 year olds

2025/26

Chapter: SEN Profile

Produced by:

Jessica Edwards, Business Intelligence and Insight Manager & BI Strategic Lead

Jess.Edwards@shropshire.gov.uk

Mark Trenfield, Senior Public Health Intelligence Analyst

Mark.Trenfield@shropshire.gov.uk

Katrina Lester, Project Coordinator

Katrina.lester@shropshrie.gov.uk

Key Findings

SEN Population size

- **SEN Prevalence:** 8,653 pupils - 19.5% of all school-aged children in Shropshire have a Special Educational Need in 2024-25, similar to regional (19.8%) and national (19.5%).
- **Trend in the SEN population:** increasing rapidly, up 32% post pandemic
- **SEN Support Prevalence:** 6,141 pupils with SEN Support; (13.9%), slightly lower than the comparators. However, faster rise in Shropshire between 2019/20 and 2024/25 compared to national - 20% rise since pre pandemic (992 children)
- **EHCP Prevalence:** 2,512 pupils (5.7%) in Shropshire in 2024-25, slightly higher than comparators. However, Shropshire is rising at a faster pace, up 78% compared to pre-pandemic levels - an increase of 1,104 children.
- **Forecasting SEN population:** forecasts indicate the number of pupils with SEN Support are expected to continue increasing over the next 10 years, with EHCP pupils forecasted to rise more quickly.

Demographics

- **Gender:** 65% of all SEN children in Shropshire are males, and slightly higher for EHCPs (72%), similar to national. Higher prevalence in boys in Shropshire across each primary need.
- **Age:** Half (51%) of all pupils with SEN were aged 5-10 years old and 42% were 11-15 years old. Growth between pre-pandemic has been particularly in the 5-10 and 11 to 15 age groups.
- **Location:** SEN population mostly living in Shrewsbury and surrounding areas, pockets in Much Wenlock, Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Highley, Oswestry, Whitchurch and Market Drayton
- **Rurality and EHCPs:** Areas in Shropshire which have a high number of school aged children with EHCPs living there and are also classified as rural are mostly located on the borders of Shropshire and in the surrounding areas of Shrewsbury.

Primary need

- **Most prevalent:** In 2024-25, in Shropshire, most prevalent primary need among all SEN school aged children was social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) at 22% (1,567 pupils), slightly above the regional (19.6%) and national (21.6%) prevalence. In Shropshire this was an 83% rise from pre-pandemic figures.
- **Second most prevalent:** Speech, Language and Communication needs (SLCN) at 18%, and below regional (25%) and national (24%). Increase of 27% in Shropshire between 2019-20 and 2024-25:
- **Trends:** Since the pandemic, certain primary needs have been rising significantly: SEMH, SLCN, Autistic spectrum disorder and 'SEN support but no specialist assessment of type of need' .
- **State primary schools:** SLCN and SEMH most prevalent among SEN population.
- **State secondary schools:** SEMH and Specific Learning Disability most prevalent among SEN population
- **Special schools:** Severe learning difficulty and SEMH most prevalent among Shropshire SEN population, higher than regional and national

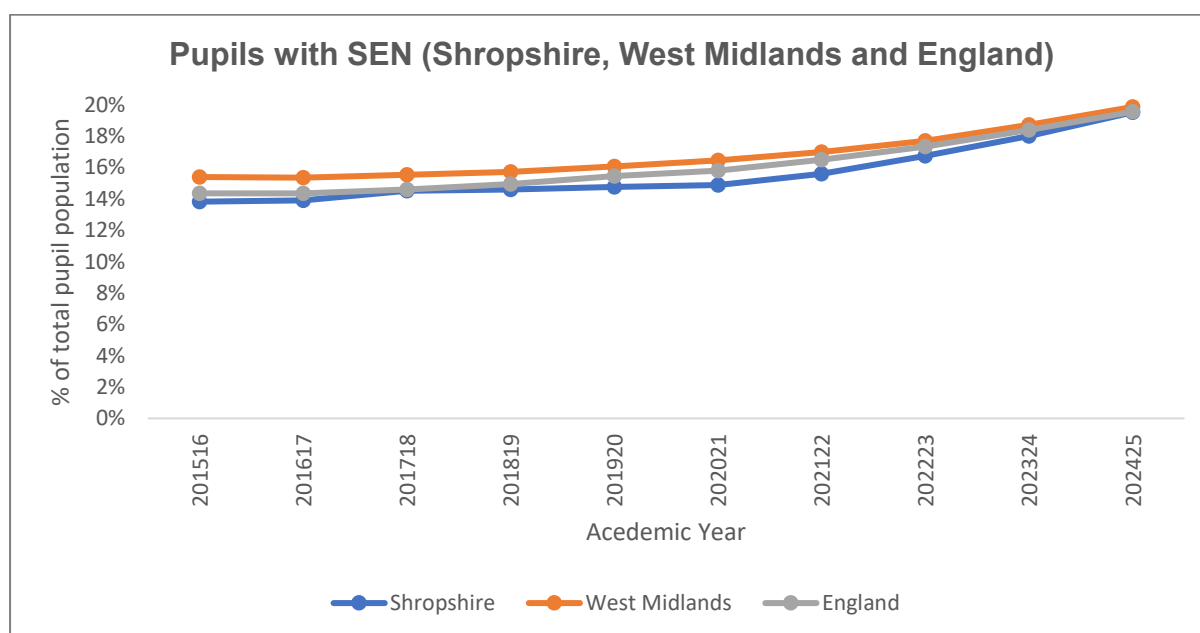
Our SEN population

All children with SEN

During 2024/25 in Shropshire, 8,653 children were identified as having a special educational need (EHCP or SEN Support), a 31.9% rise compared to pre-pandemic (2019/20). This equates to 19.5% of all Shropshire pupils having special educational needs (SEN Support/EHCPs) in 2024/25, similar to West Midlands (19.9%) and England (19.6%) figures. However, Shropshire's rate has been rising at a faster pace than regionally and nationally.

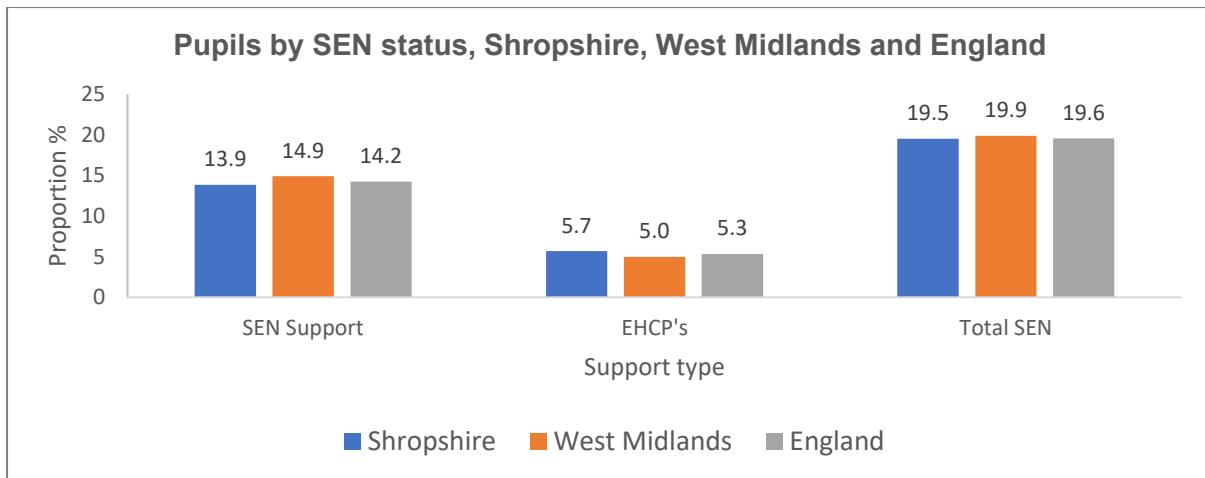
School leaders have suggested that this can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic national lockdown, with online learning and little social contact contributing to a rise in special educational needs (SEN), exclusions, absenteeism and a wider attainment gap between pupils from different socio-economic backgrounds.

Chart showing all pupils identified with Special educational needs (SEN support/EHCPs), Shropshire, West Midlands, England between 2015/16 and 2024/25. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



Please note: This data includes state-funded nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, non-maintained special schools, state-funded alternative provision schools and independent schools. It also includes pupils with SEN support in state-funded schools and pupils with SEN without an EHC plan in independent schools. Information derived from Schools Census includes data collected on a pupil level basis, termly, direct from state-funded schools only. DfE use this data source in their publication about pupils with special educational needs. The age range in the school census will include some early years children, if they attend a school setting, plus 4 to 19 year olds. The SEN Support status collected on children is designated by the schools. Any EHCP data from Synergy as a data source will include Shropshire children attending any setting of the aged 0-25. Information regarding children with EHE and CME is reported on using 'Synergy' - the Local Authorities education management information system.

Chart showing the proportion of pupils by SEN status, (Shropshire, West Midlands, England), 2024-2025 Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



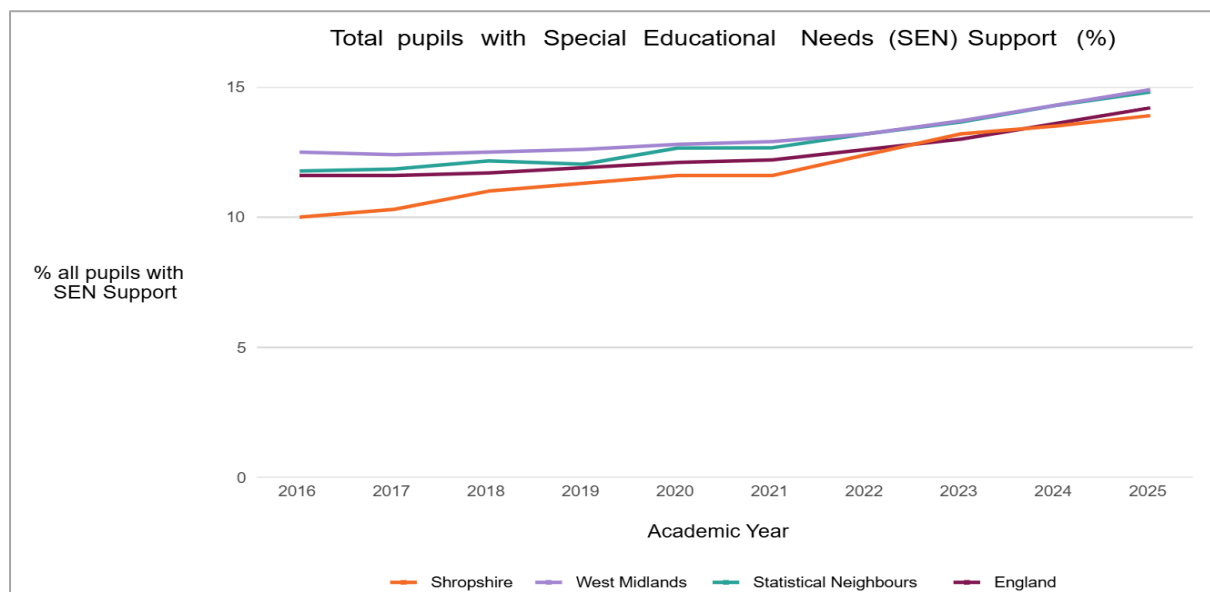
Pupils with SEN Support

In Shropshire in 2024-25, there were 6,141 pupils with SEN Support; this equates to 13.9% of school-aged children in Shropshire, lower than the West Midlands (14.9%), statistical neighbours (14.8%) but similar to England at 14.2%.

The proportion of children with SEN support is increasing in Shropshire, regionally, nationally and among our statistical neighbours, however Shropshire is rising at a faster rate.

The number of children with SEN Support continues to increase in Shropshire, with a 20% rise seen between 2019/20 and 2022/23, up by 992 children.

Chart showing the proportion of pupils with SEN Support in Shropshire, Statistical Neighbours, West Midlands and England, 2015-16 to 2024-25. Source: [Local authority interactive tool \(LAIT\) - GOV.UK](#)

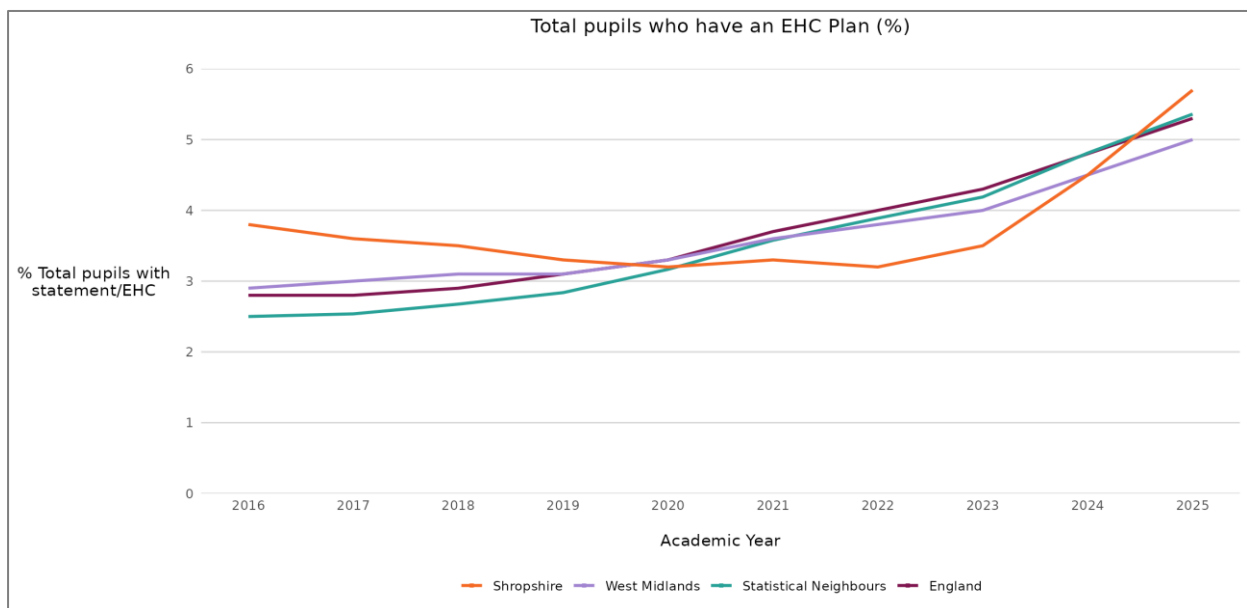


Pupils with EHCPs

In Shropshire in 2024-25, there were 2,512 pupils on EHCPs; this equates to 5.7% of school-aged children in Shropshire, similar to our statistical neighbours (5.4%), higher than the West Midlands (5.0%) and similar to the England rate (5.3%).

Between 2016 and 2020 in Shropshire, the proportion of children who have an EHCP fell, then plateaued until 2023 and rose after. This trend was different to the picture in England, the West Midlands and among our statistical neighbours, where there was a consistent rise over time. Between 2015/16 and 2024/25 there was an increase of 863 pupils with an EHCP in Shropshire (52% increase). However, Shropshire shows a faster rise between 2022 to 2025, going from below our comparators, to beyond them in 2025.

Chart showing the proportion of pupils with EHCPs in Shropshire, with West Midlands and England comparisons, 2015-16 to 2024-25. Source: [Local authority interactive tool \(LAIT\) - GOV.UK](#)



Forecasting

Methodology

Five methods of forecasting were used to predict the number of pupils with SEN Support or EHCPs in Shropshire in the next 10 years:

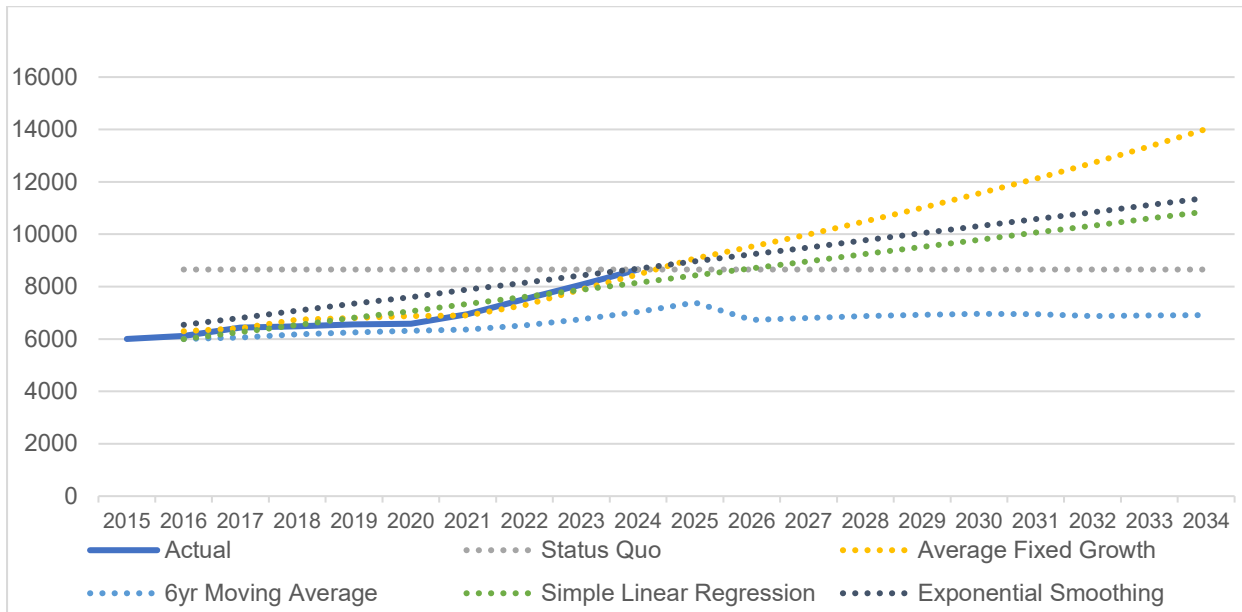
1. **Status Quo:** Assumes future values will remain the same as the most recently observed value
2. **Average Fixed Growth:** Applies a constant growth rate based on historic averages
3. **6-Year Moving Average:** Calculates the average of the last six years of data and uses it as the forecast
4. **Simple Linear Regression:** Projects a steady, straight-line increase based on the overall trend.
5. **Exponential Smoothing:** Reacts more to recent changes, offering a slightly steeper or curved trend.

Method	Description	Complexity	Pros	Cons
Status Quo	Uses the most recent value as the forecast	Very Low	Simple, quick, good for short-term	Ignores trends and seasonality
Average Fixed Growth	Applies a constant historical growth rate	Low	Reflects historical growth, easy to apply	Assumes growth remains constant
6-Year Moving Average	Average of last six years' data	Low	Smooths fluctuations, reduces noise	Lags behind changes, not responsive
Simple Linear Regression	Fits a straight line to data and extrapolates	Medium	Captures trend direction and magnitude	Assumes linearity, sensitive to outliers
Exponential Smoothing	Weighted average giving more weight to recent data	Medium	Responsive to recent changes	Poor for trends unless extended (Holt-Winters)

Pupils with SEN

Based on 10 years of historic data, the forecasts suggest a mixed picture for pupils with SEN provision over the next 10 years. Exponential Smoothing methods are most suitable for short term planning and Linear Regression for longer term planning based on the reasoning below. This shows that numbers of pupils with SEN in Shropshire are forecasted to rise by 32% (Exponential Smoothing) or 26% (linear regression) in the next 10 years. Average Fixed Growth suggests a much steeper increase (+62%) while 6-year moving averages project a decline in SEN children. Consequently, the exact extent is difficult to determine with certainty. Please note that future population change is not incorporated within these forecasts.

Forecast chart for numbers of children with SEN (EHCP and SEN support combined) to 2034.



Method	10 year forecast change	% change 2024-2034
Status Quo	0	0%
Average Fixed Growth	5,363	+62%
6-Year Moving Average	-1,741	-20%
Simple Linear Regression	2,212	+26%
Exponential Smoothing	2,730	+32%

Based on the historical trend and forecast behaviour:

- **Linear Regression** assumes a steady, long-term increase and is ideal for strategic planning.
- **Exponential Smoothing** adapts to recent changes and is best for short-term planning when recent years show a shift.

Recommendation:

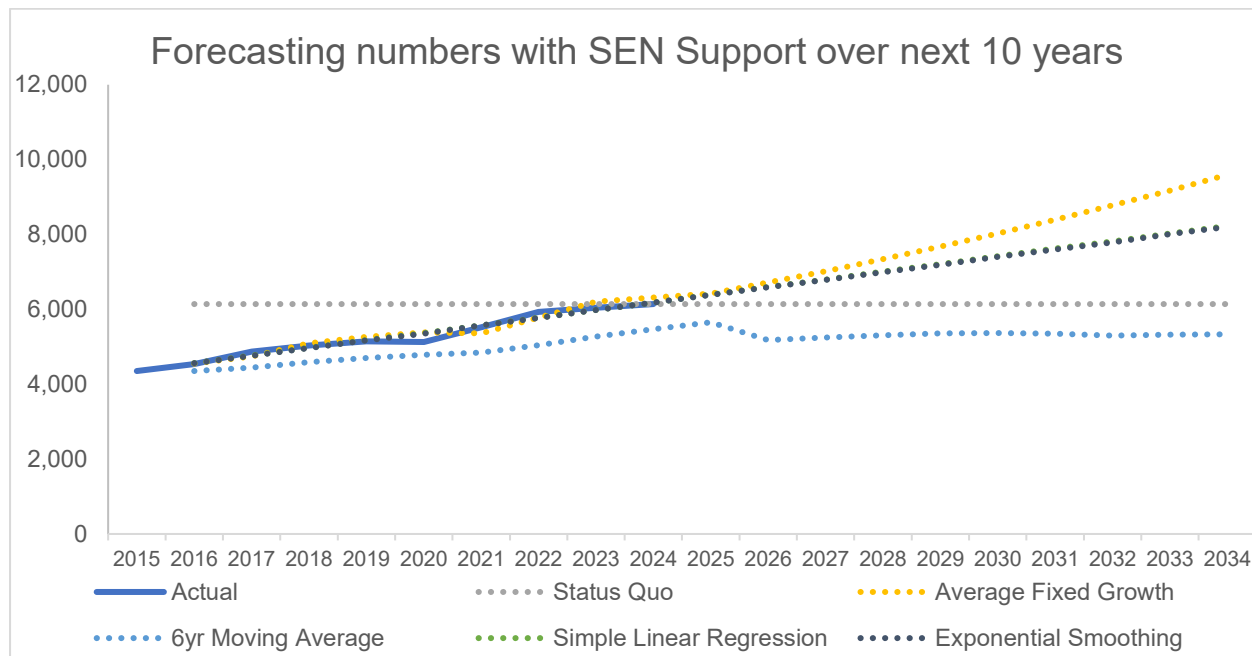
The historic data shows a steady upward trend with some acceleration in recent years, therefore using Exponential Smoothing or Linear Regression for operational planning and reporting is recommended.

SEN Support

Based on 10 years of historic data (academic years starting 2015-2024), the forecasts below suggests that the number of pupils with SEN Support are expected to continue increasing over the next 10 years, according to the average fixed growth, linear regression and exponential smoothing methodologies indicating a rise of between 34% and 56% in numbers between academic year starting 2024 and academic year starting 2034. However, the 6-year

moving average methodology suggests a 13% reduction in numbers with SEN support. Please note that future population change is not incorporated within these forecasts.

Forecast chart- number of children with SEN support to 2034



Method	10 year forecast change	% change 2024-2034
Status Quo	0	0%
Average Fixed Growth	3,454	+56%
6-Year Moving Average	-806	-13%
Simple Linear Regression	2,084	+34%
Exponential Smoothing	2,061	+34%

Best Method

Most methods suggest continued growth in SEN support over the next decade. Linear Regression and Exponential Smoothing give nearly identical results, projecting a steady increase over the next decade.

Recommendation:

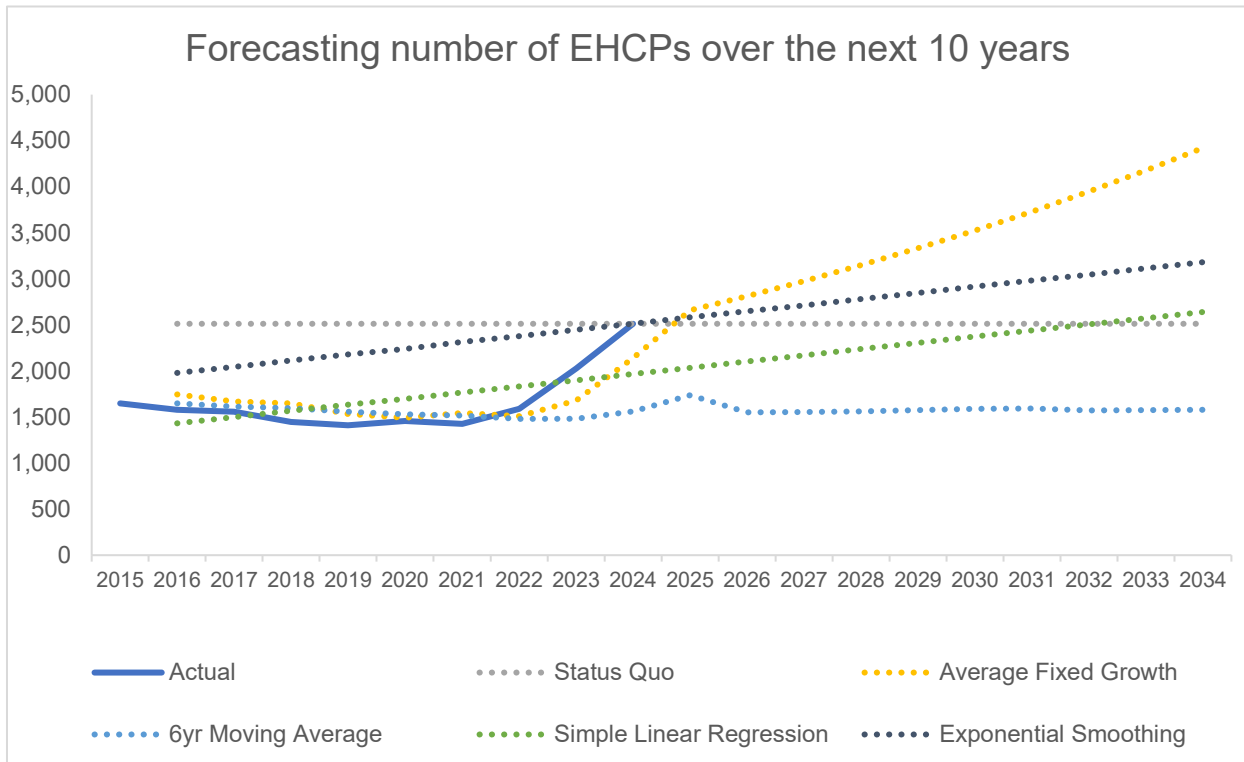
If the recent growth in SEN Support continues, Exponential Smoothing or Linear Regression may be suitable forecasting methodologies.

EHCPs

Based on 10 years of historic data, the forecasts suggest a mixed picture for EHCPs over the next 10 years. For EHCPs, average fixed growth and exponential smoothing show that numbers of pupils with EHCPs in Shropshire are forecast to rise by the highest amount, with linear regression projecting a more modest increase. The recent (2023 and 2024) uptick in

EHCPs means that future trends are challenging to determine with certainty. Please note that future population change is not incorporated within these forecasts.

Forecast chart- number of EHCPs to 2034



Method	10 year forecast change	% change 2024-2034
Status Quo	0	0%
Average Fixed Growth	1,909	+76%
6-Year Moving Average	-935	-37%
Simple Linear Regression	128	+5%
Exponential Smoothing	669	+27%

Best Method

Given the non-linear and fluctuating trend in EHCPs from 2015 to 2024 (e.g., a dip followed by a sharp rise in 2024), the Exponential Smoothing method may be more suitable than Linear Regression or Average Fixed Growth. Exponential Smoothing adapts to recent changes and is best for short-term planning, especially when recent years show a shift (eg 2024 spike).

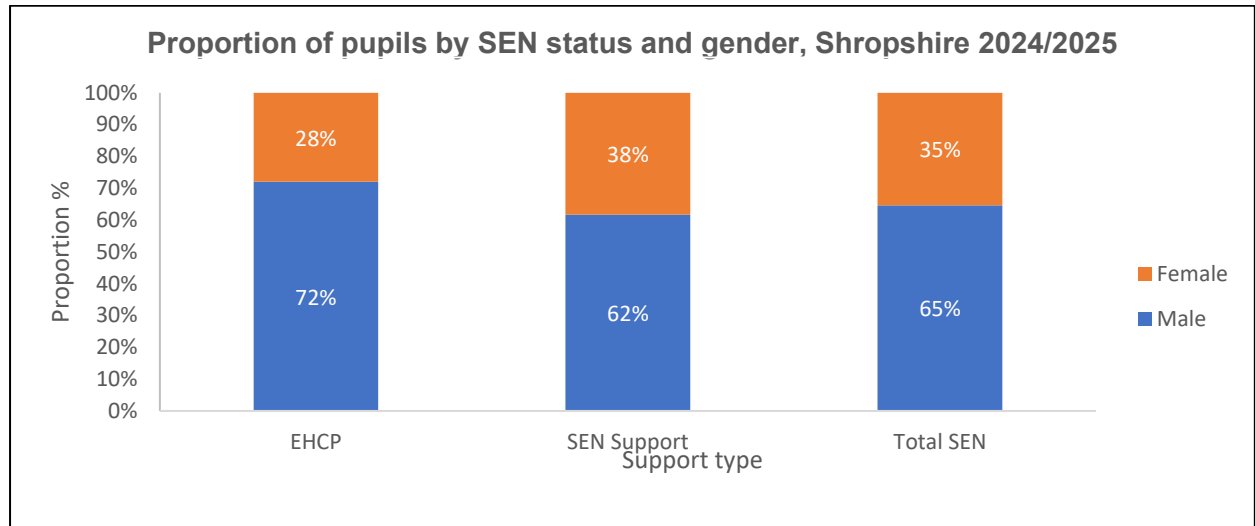
Recommendation:

Use Exponential Smoothing for short- to medium-term planning where recent trends are important. Consider other methodologies if dealing with more complex time series behaviour.

Characteristics of pupils with SEN

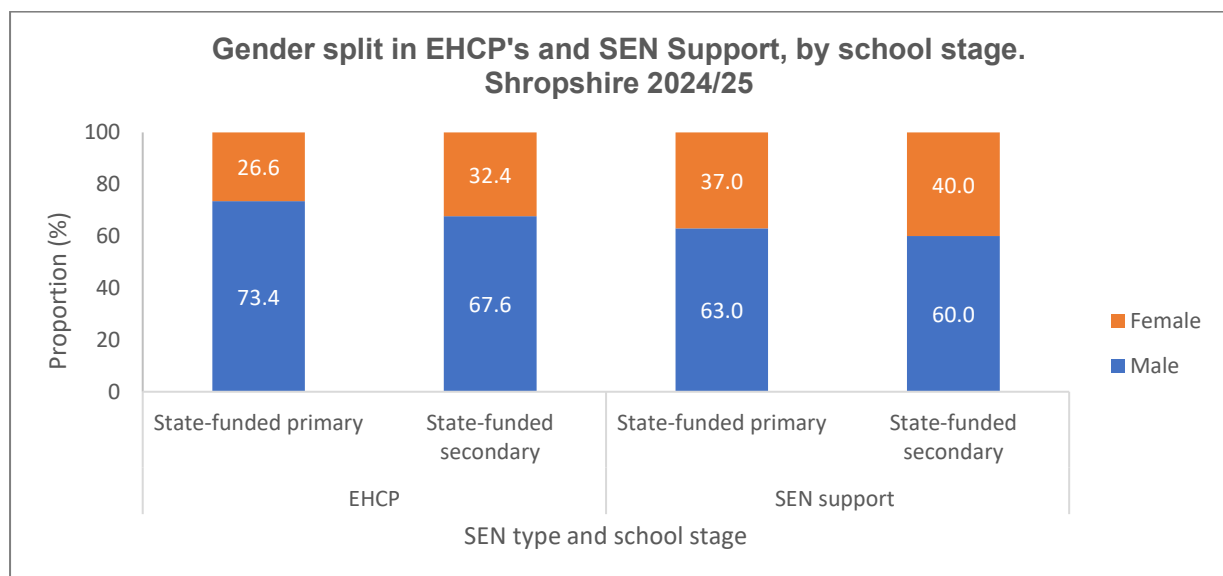
Similar to the national picture, the proportion of children and young people with an EHCP is much higher in the male population (72%). Similarly, the proportion of children with SEN support needs is higher in the male population (62%).

Chart showing the proportion of Shropshire pupils by SEN status and gender, 2024-25. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



In the 2024-25, over 70% of EHCPs in Shropshire schools were issued to boys, at both primary and secondary school. The gender split for SEN Support was slightly less extreme with 63% of SEN Support in primary was provided to boys, and 60% in secondary schools.

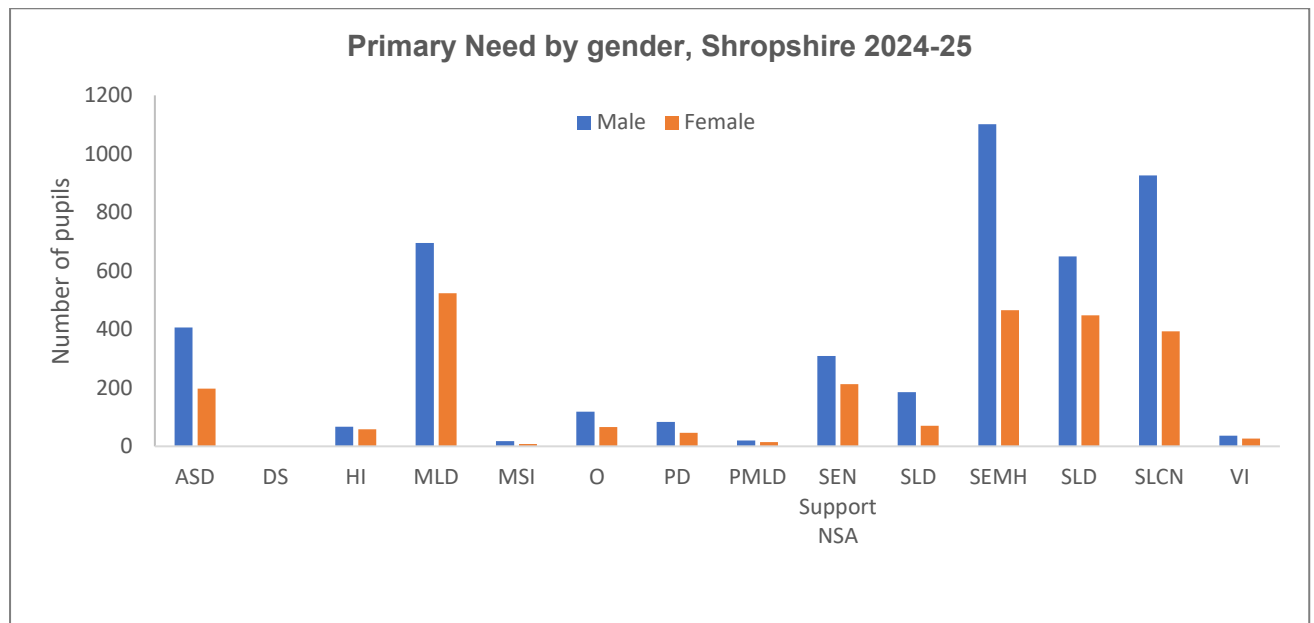
Chart showing the gender split in EHCPs and SEN Support, by school stage, 2024-25 (Shropshire state-funded schools). Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



There are gender differences in 'Primary Need', among Shropshire pupils

Boys outnumbered girls across all SEN primary needs in 24/25. Of note, figures are higher in boys with SEMH, SLCN, MLD, SpLD and ASD compared to girls. Within these groups, a higher proportion of boys had an EHCP. There were twice as many boys as girls with SEMH at primary school. This difference narrowed in secondary, but overall boys were twice as likely to have an EHCP for SEMH.

Chart showing the primary need of pupils with SEN (SEN support and EHCPs), by gender, 2024-25 (Shropshire state-funded schools). Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



Research - Girls less likely to be diagnosed with SEN

Research carried out in November 2023 by Durham University, using UK government data, looks for reasons as to why there are more males than females being diagnosed with special educational needs. This is a pattern in Shropshire, and throughout the Country.

Factors include:

- Gender bias – it has been suggested that teachers may be more likely to refer boys because of their disruptive behaviour, while girls go “under the radar”
- Assessments being typically based on male characteristics – which overlooks how Autism Spectrum Disorder presents in girls

Source: [Girls less likely to be diagnosed with special educational needs – new research - Durham University](#)

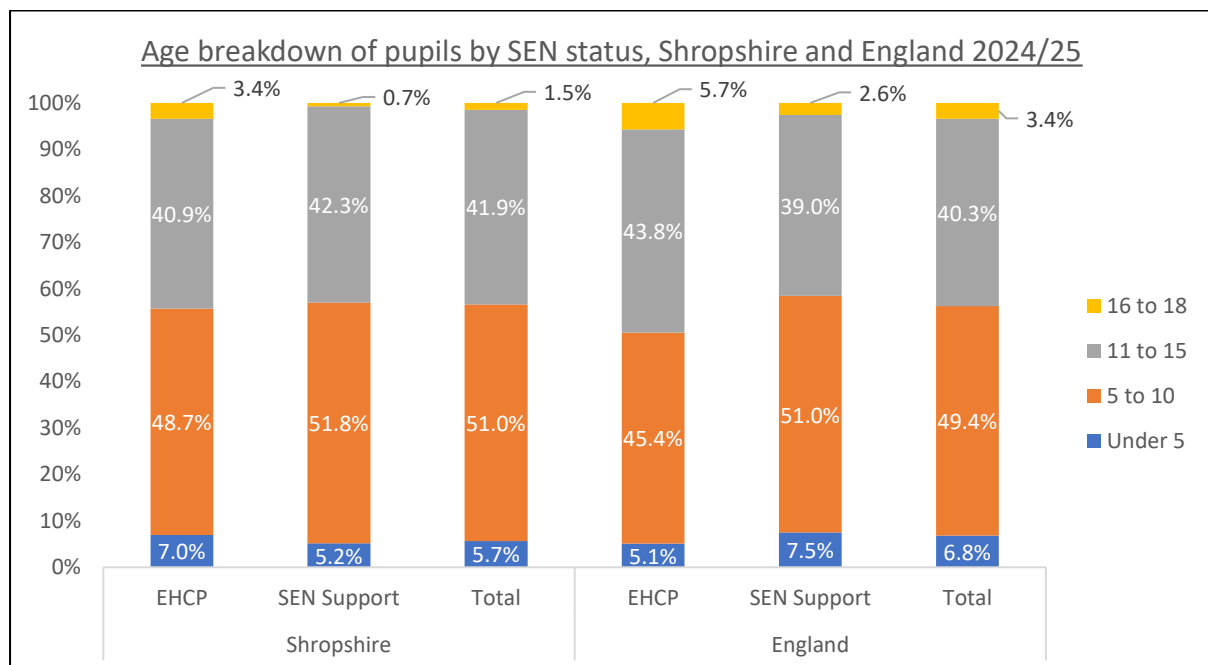
Age group

In 2024-25, 51% of all Shropshire pupils with SEN were aged 5-10 years old, compared to 49% in England - and 42% in Shropshire were aged 11-15, compared to 40% in England.

For those with SEN support, the highest proportion was in the 5 to 10 age group (52%), followed by those aged 11 to 15 (42%), compared to England - 51% and 39% respectively.

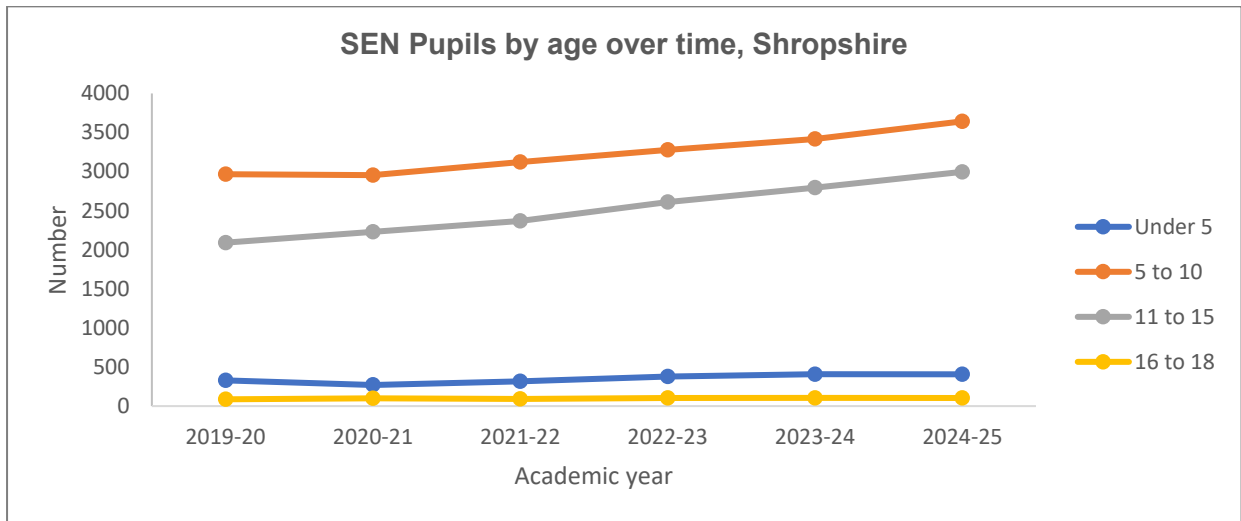
A similar picture was observed among school-aged children on an EHCP, with 49% aged 5 to 10 (compared to 45% in England) and 41.% aged 11 to 15, compared to 44% in England, while in Shropshire there was a slightly higher percentage of pupils aged under 5 with EHCPs in Shropshire 7% compared to England (5%).

Chart showing the proportion of Shropshire and England pupils by SEN status and age group, 2024-25. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



Between to 2019-20 and 2024-25, there has been a 30.6% increase in pupils with SEN across Shropshire. This has mainly been driven by the increase in pupils aged 5 to 15, however all age groups show a rise.

Chart showing the number of SEN pupils over time by age group and academic year, Shropshire, 2019-2020 to 2024-25. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



Different age groups account for the large increases in pupils requiring SEN support and EHCPs. For pupils on SEN Support, there has been a large rise among those aged 11 -18, particularly steepest in those 11-15 (46% increase). For those with an EHCP, the largest rise has been among those aged 10 and under, with a growth of 93% in the 5-10 group since 2019-20, but a notable increase occurring since 2022/23.

Chart showing the change in the SEN status of pupils by age group, Shropshire, 2019-2020 and 2024-25. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

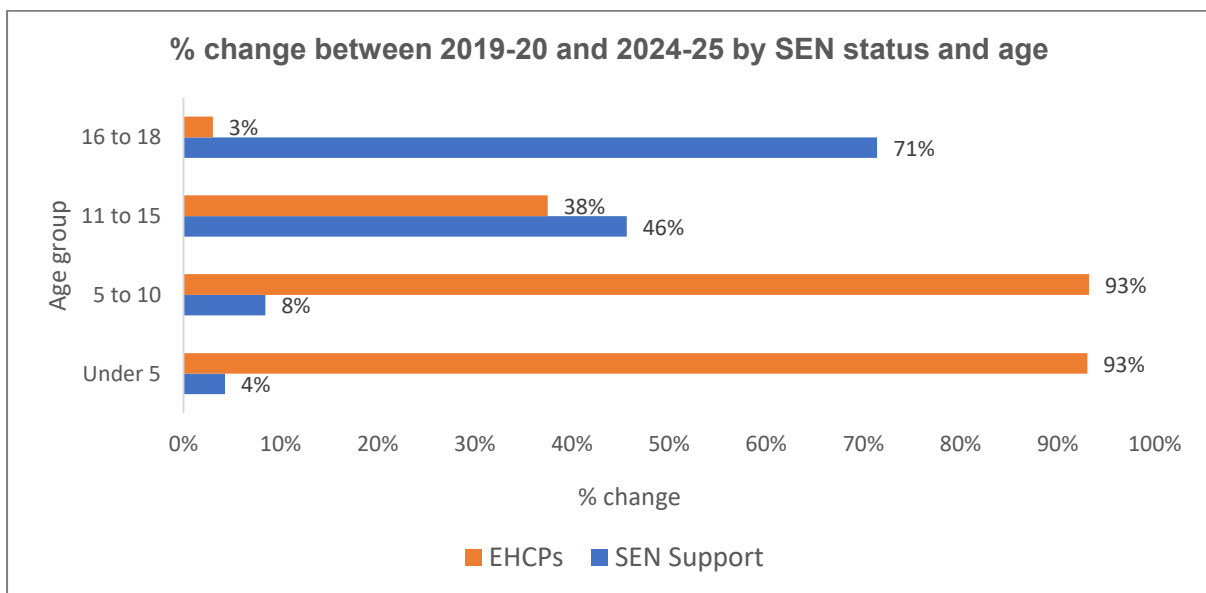


Chart showing the number pupils with the SEN Support type over time by age group and academic year, Shropshire, 2019-2020 to 2024-25. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

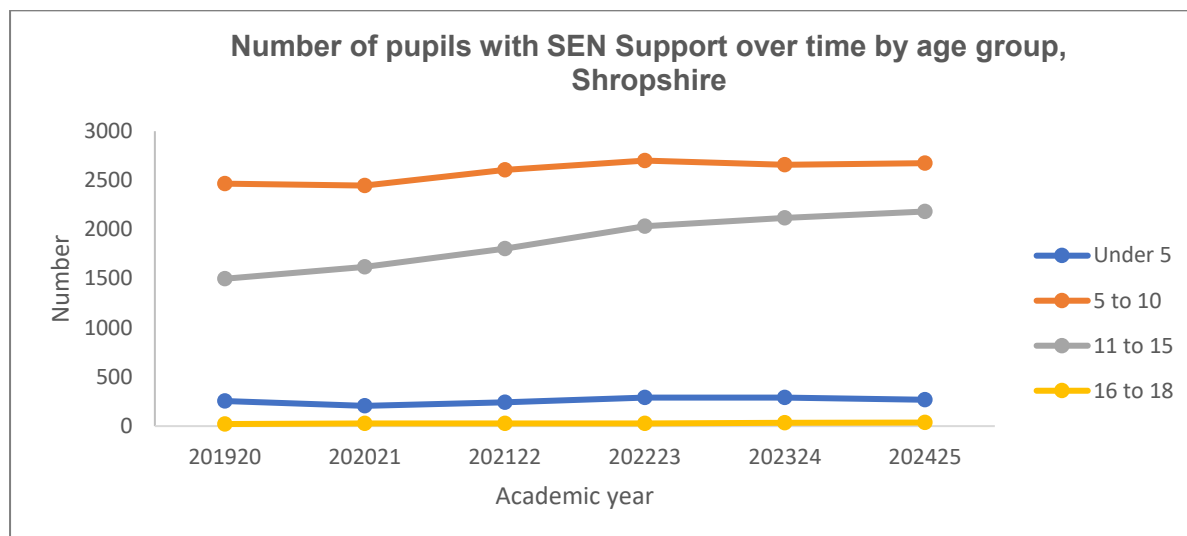
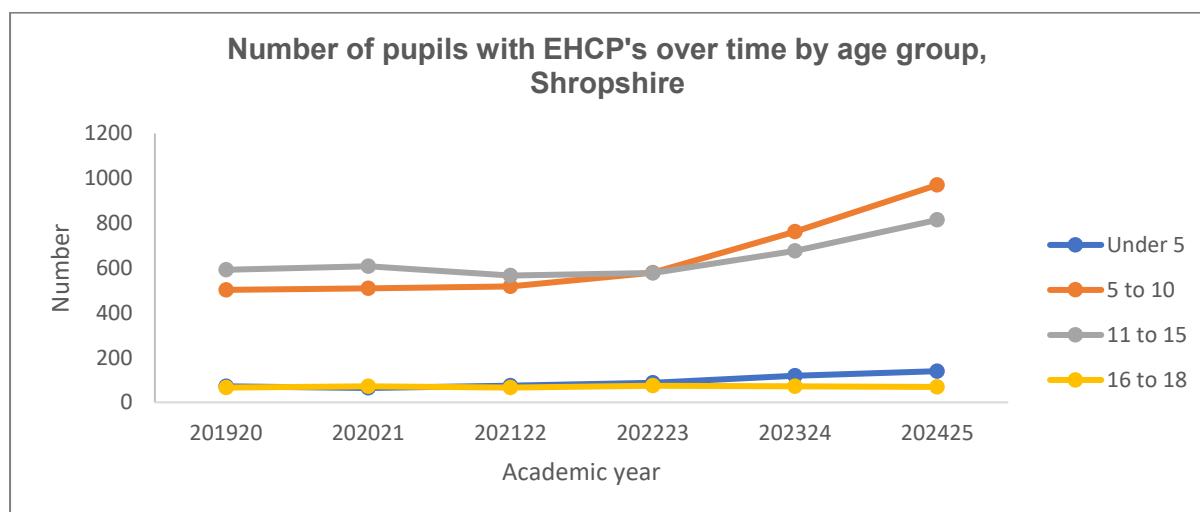


Chart showing the number pupils with the EHCP support type over time by age group and academic year, Shropshire, 2019-2020 to 2024-25. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

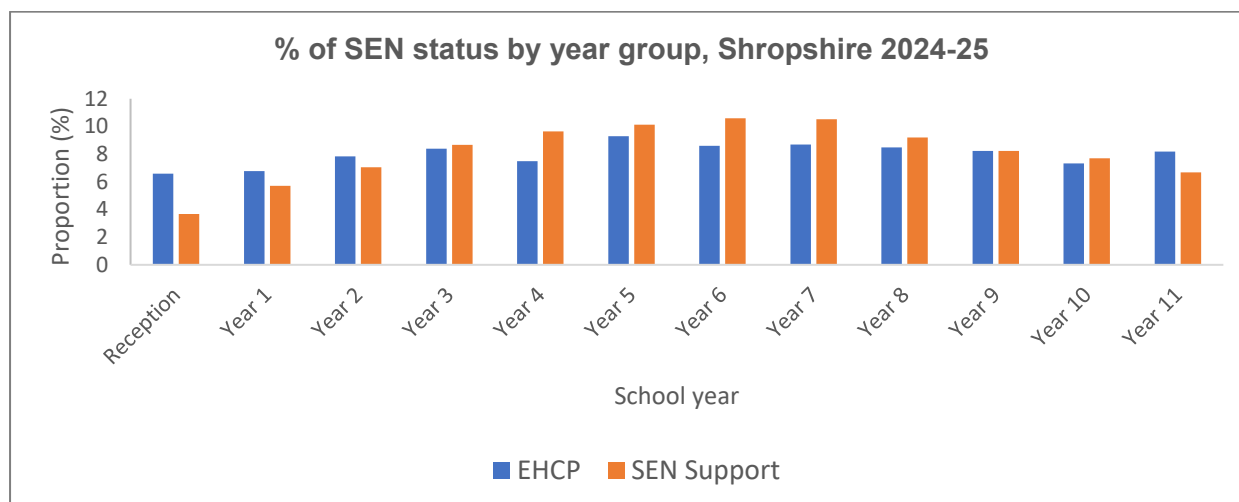


Please note: EHCP also includes statements of SEN. Statements were phased out from 2014 to 2018. Includes state-funded nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, non-maintained special schools and state-funded alternative provision schools, not independent.

Year group

Similar to England, the proportion of pupils with SEN support increases in primary school before decreasing through secondary school years (7-11). The EHCP is highest in Year 5 at 9.3%, followed by Year 7 at 8.7% and the following years remain similar.

Chart showing proportion of Shropshire pupils by SEN status and year group, 2024-25. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-academic-year-2024-25)



Ethnicity

For pupils with SEN (SEN support and EHCPs) in 2024-25 in Shropshire, the majority (90.3%) were White British, compared to 63.6% in the West Midlands and 67.8% nationally. 3.0% of pupils were from 'Other White' ethnic background, compared to 3.6% in the West Midlands and 5.2% nationally. A similar picture was observed when split by pupils on SEN support (90.7% were White British and 2.9% were Other White) and EHCPs (89.5% were White British and 3.3% were Other White).

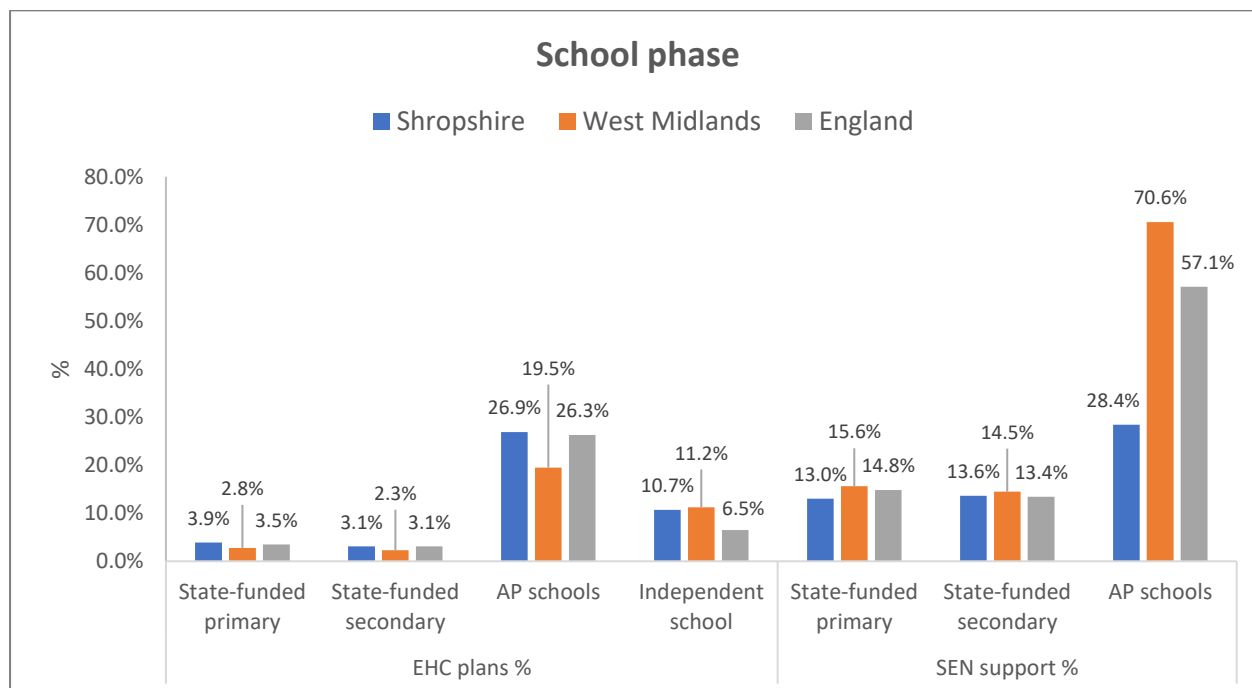
Please note: EHCP also includes statements of SEN. Statements were phased out from 2014 to 2018. Includes state-funded nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, non-maintained special schools and state-funded alternative provision schools, not independent.

School Phase

In Shropshire, 44,320 pupils were attending Shropshire schools in 2024-25, 2,512 (5.7%) had EHC plans, which is a slightly higher percentage than both the West Midlands (5.0%) and England (5.3%). Meanwhile 6,141 pupils (13.9%) had SEN support, which is a slightly lower percentage than both West Midlands (14.9%) and England (14.2%).

In Shropshire in state funded primary schools, 881 pupils (3.9%) of total pupils were on EHCPs and 2,915 (13%) were on SEN support, while in state funded secondary schools this was 513 pupils (3.1%) on EHCPs and 2,225 pupils (13.6%) on SEN support. In independent schools, 521 pupils (10.7%) were on EHCPs, 982 pupils (20.2%) were on SEN support, while all 579 pupils at state-funded special schools were on EHCPs.

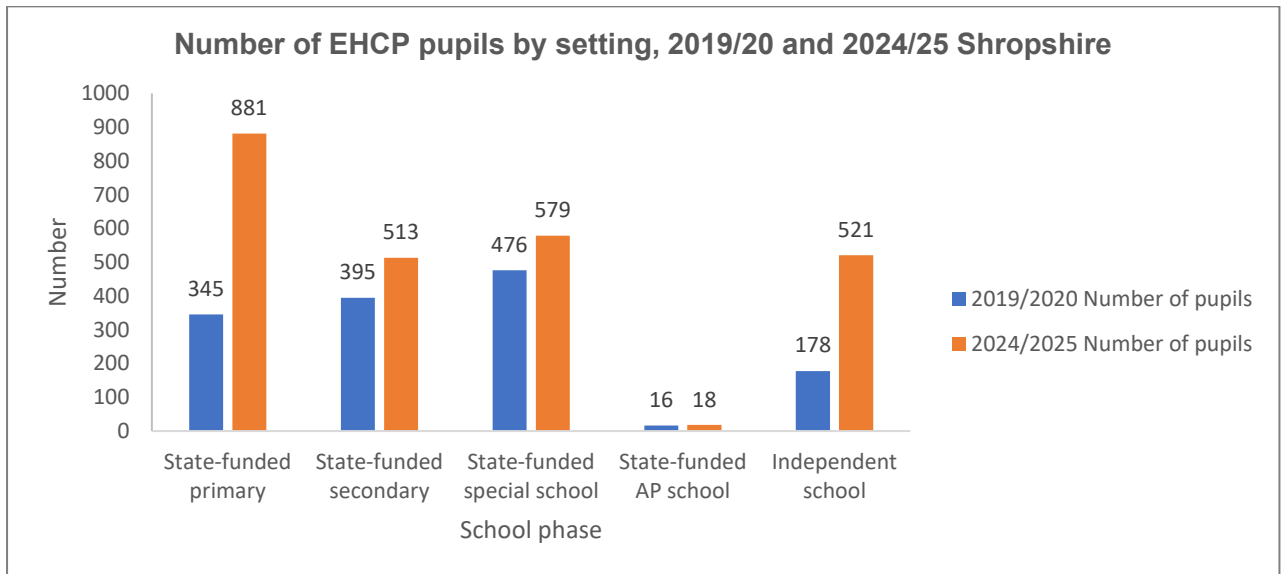
Chart showing the proportion of pupils with SEN Support, EHCPs for Shropshire, West Midlands and England, 2024-25. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



The charts below show the change in Shropshire’s school type profile for pupils with EHCPs between 2019/2020 and 2024/2025. There has been an overall increase of 44%, which equates to 615 pupils.

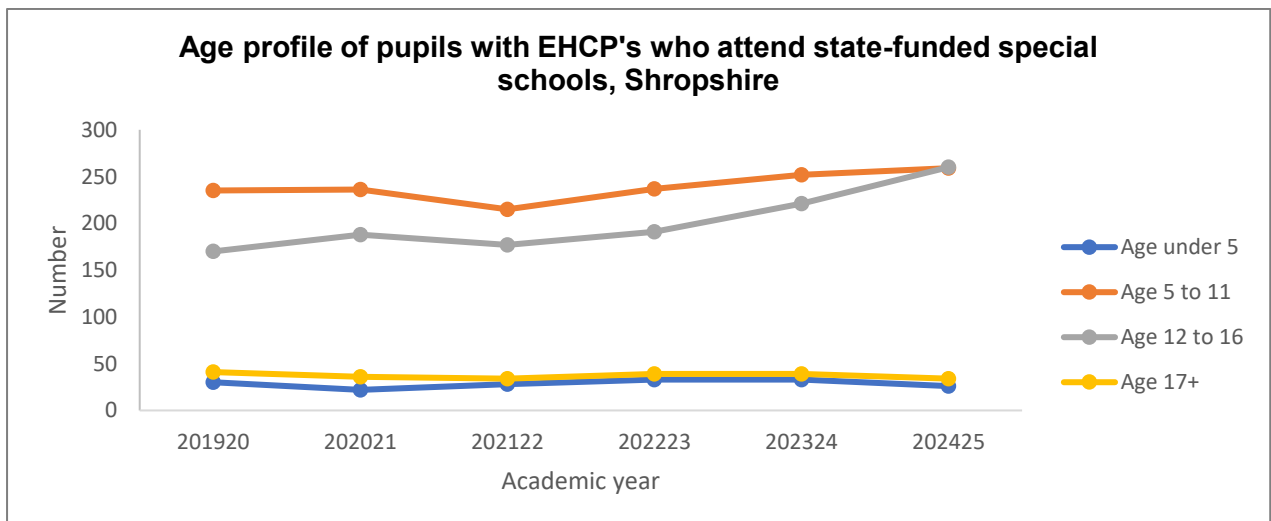
- State funded primary. 155% increase (+536 pupils)
- State funded secondary. 29.9% increase. (+118 pupils)
- Special school. 21.6% increase. (+103 pupils)
- State funded AP school. A slight increase of below 5 pupils.
- Independent. 192.6% increase. (+343 pupils)

Chart showing Shropshire's school phase for pupils with EHCPs (number) for 2019/2020 and 2024/2025. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



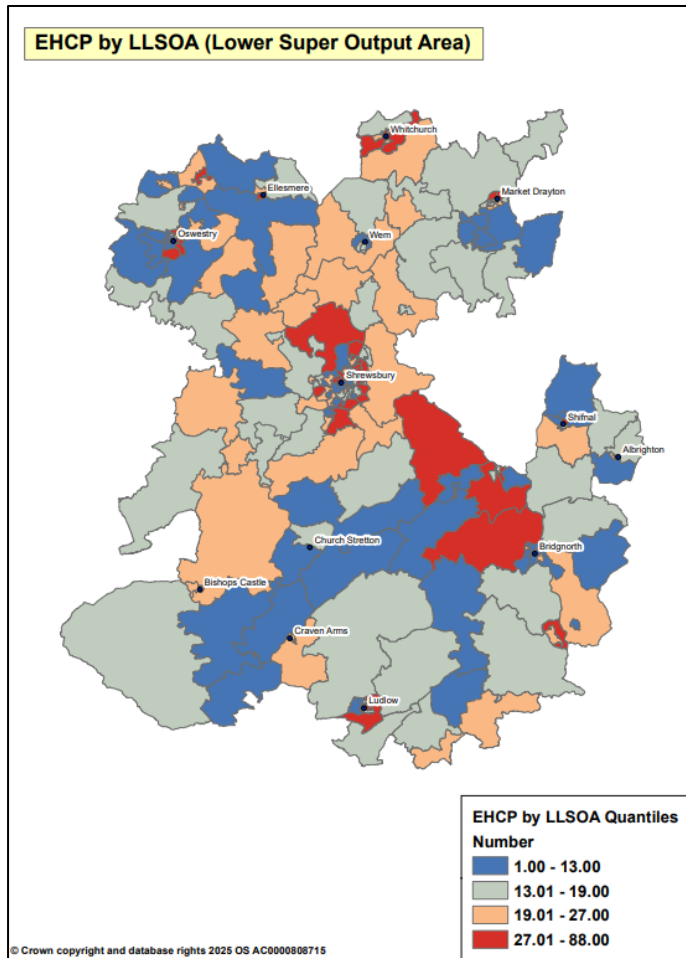
In those attending Shropshire's state-funded special schools, since 2019/2020 most age group numbers have remained relatively stable, but there is a 53% increase in secondary age (12 to 16) from 170 to 260.

Chart showing the number of Shropshire pupils with EHCPs, by age, who attend state funded special schools. 2019/2020 to 2024/2025. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



Where do our SEN population live?

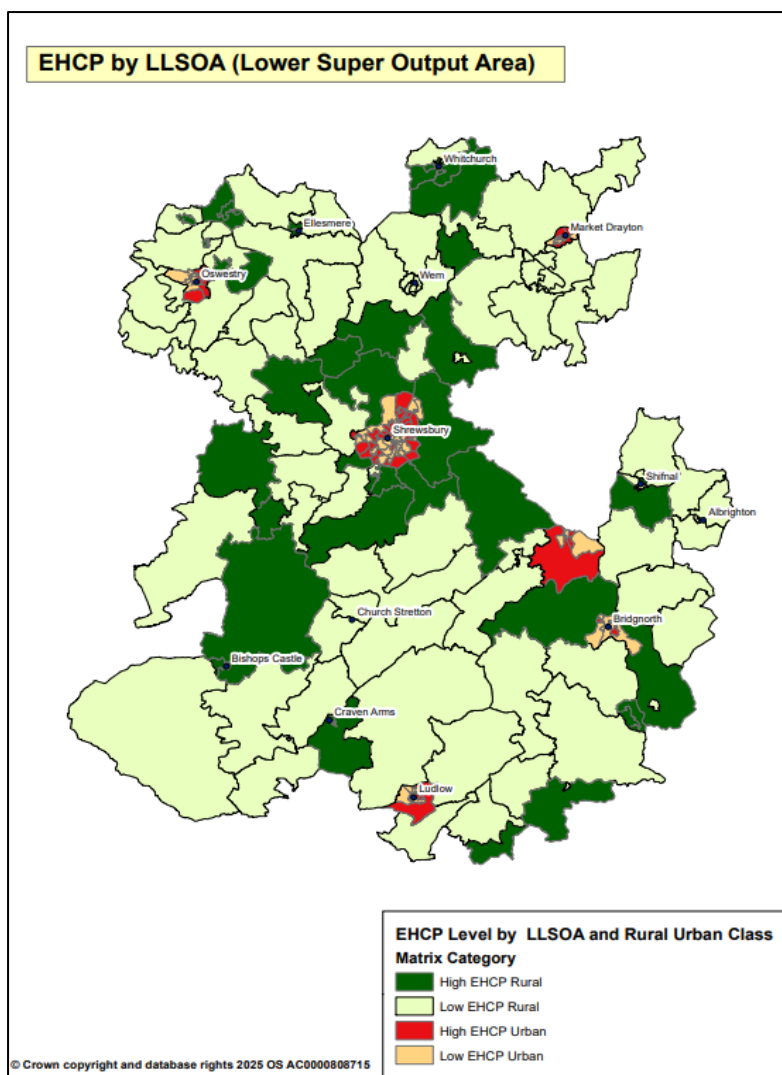
The map below shows the number of children with an EHCP living in each small area in Shropshire. The areas with high numbers of children with an EHCP (between 27-88 pupils) are highlighted in red, located in Shrewsbury and surrounding areas, Much Wenlock, Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Highley, Oswestry, Whitchurch and Market Drayton.



There is a strong association between deprivation and higher rates of SEND prevalence; children with SEND are more likely to be eligible for free school meals.

The map below shows areas of Shropshire where numbers of children with an EHCP live and are classified as rural by the rural urban classification tool (dark green).

Many areas classified as High number of pupils with EHCPs and rural are located on the borders of the county and in the surrounding areas of Shrewsbury.



Which schools do our SEN population attend?

Overall, 14% of all pupils in Local Authority maintained Shropshire schools receive SEN Support and 5% had an EHCP.

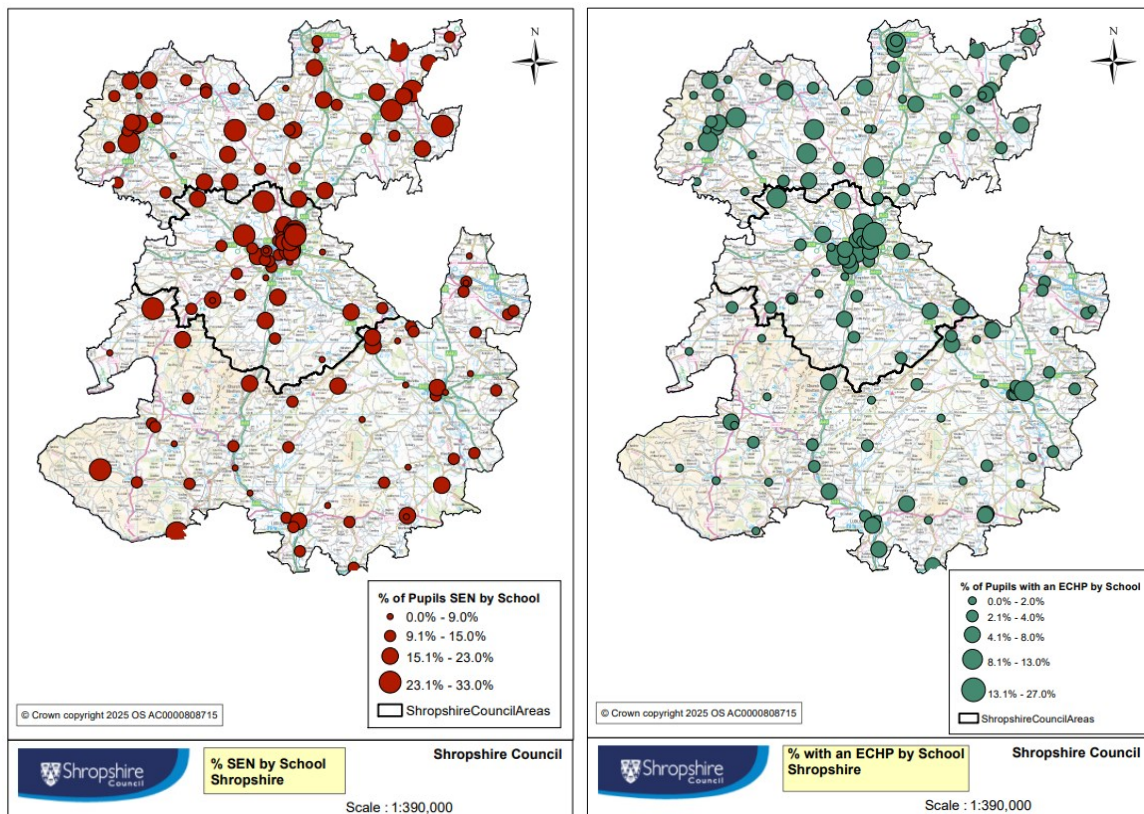
In Shropshire Local Authority maintained academies, 14% of all pupils receive SEN support and 6% had an EHCP.

The maps below, show the proportion of pupils at each school receiving SEN support or with an EHCP (bubble size indicates % of all pupils at that school with SEN/EHCP, larger bubbles equates to a larger proportion).

Schools with higher proportions of their pupils receiving SEN support (23%+) are in northern parts of the county and in north-east Shrewsbury, with a few exceptions of schools located in the south, namely the Bishop’s Castle place plan area.

Schools with higher proportions of their pupils on EHCPs (13%+) are also mainly located in northern parts of the county and in Shrewsbury. There is also one exception of a school in the south in Bridgnorth, with over 13% of its pupils on EHCPs.

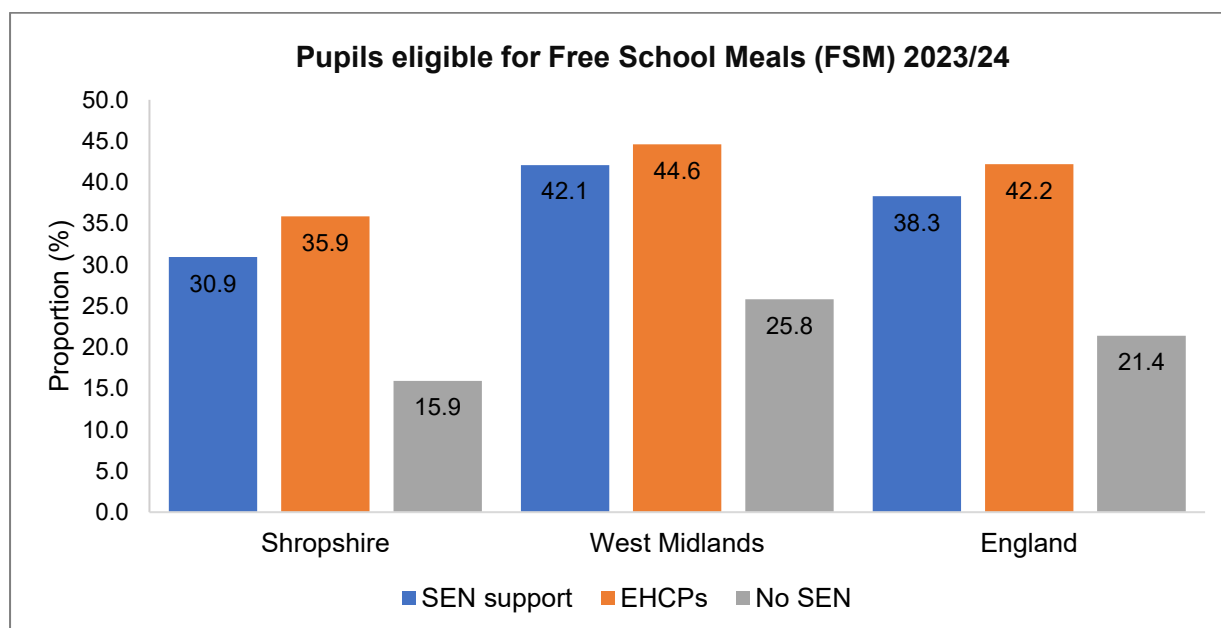
Map showing the proportion of pupils at Shropshire schools receiving SEN support (left, red bubbles) and with an EHCP (right, green bubbles).



Free school meals

There is an over-representation of free school meal eligibility among pupils with SEND. The rate for pupils with either SEN support or EHCP is double that of those with no SEN identified, however the Shropshire rates for all are lower than the West Midlands and national averages. In the period 2023-24, 7,414 pupils were eligible for free school meals (FSMs) in Shropshire (18.7% of pupils). Of those with no SEN support, 15.9% were eligible for FSM, but for those SEN support it was 30.9% and those who were on an EHCP it was 35.9%, which is lower than both West Midlands and England for all three.

Chart showing proportion (%) of Shropshire pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) by SEN status and West Midlands and England comparison, 2023-24. Source: Special educational needs in England



Generally, the proportion of pupils who are eligible for free school meals in Shropshire has increased steadily, as has the eligibility for them for those with SEN going from 25.6% in 2019/20 to 29.1% in 2023/24, which is in line with the regional and national trend.

In Shropshire as of Spring 2025 Census, 7,551 children were eligible for free school meals, equating to 19% of all children and young people attending Shropshire schools (including nursery, reception, primary and secondary). Of these eligible, 31% were identified as having SEN (SEN and/or EHCPs), equating to 2,343 children – 1,597 with SEN support and 746 children with EHCPs.

Special Educational Needs Profile

Primary types of need

There are several categories of special educational needs, classified into four broad areas:

- **Communication and Interaction:** speech, language, and communications need, including autism.
- **Cognition and Learning:** may include mild learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD) or profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) where children and young people may require varying support to access their learning as well as specific learning difficulties (SpLD) such as dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia.
- **Social, Emotional and Mental Health:** may include a range of mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders or physical symptoms which are medically unexplained. This could include behaviours that are found to be

challenging to a person, such as attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) or attachment disorder.

- **Sensory and/or Physical needs:** may include a physical disability (PD), visual impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI).

Please note: Regarding the types of SEN Primary Need, these may be flagged as a primary need but without a supporting diagnostic. It may be that the presenting behaviour has been classified, rather than the actual need. This data is only as accurate as how the schools have reported it.

Accuracy and timeliness of primary need data is only as accurate as the identification in the school themselves. Accuracy and timeliness will vary across schools therefore this may impact the prevalence of primary needs across the county presented in this report. It is recommended that a deep dive analysis of recording by schools is carried out to understand this further.

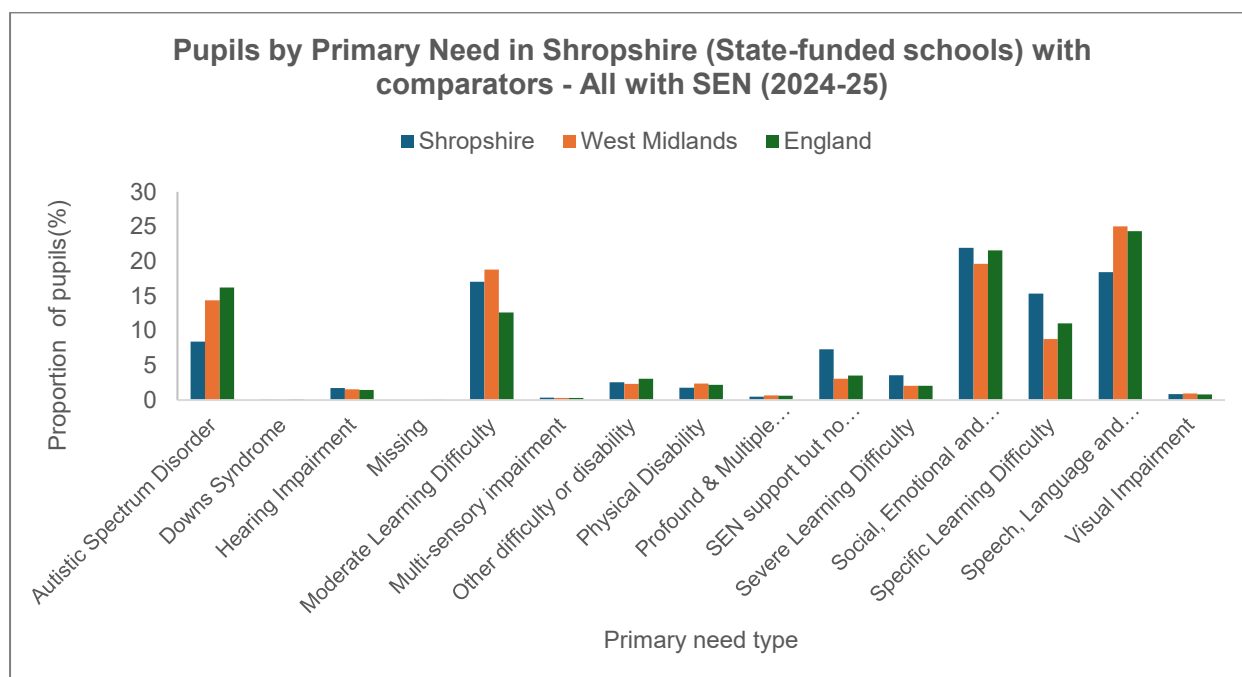
All SEN pupils - primary need

In 2024-25, among pupils in Shropshire with SEN at state-funded, non-independent schools, the most prevalent primary needs in Shropshire were:

- SEMH at 21.9% (1,567 pupils), versus 19.6% (West Midlands) and 21.6% (England).
- SLCN at 18.4% (1,319 pupils), versus 25% (West Midlands) and 24.4% (England).
- MLD at 17% (1,219 pupils), versus to West Midlands (18.8%) and England (12.6%).
- SpLD at 15.3% (1,097 pupils), versus to West Midlands (8.8%) and England (11%).

Higher levels of certain primary needs may be evident due to differing provisions across Shropshire and recording accuracy and timeliness, for example, Severndale is a large special school in Shropshire and is an outlier due to its size and profile of need.

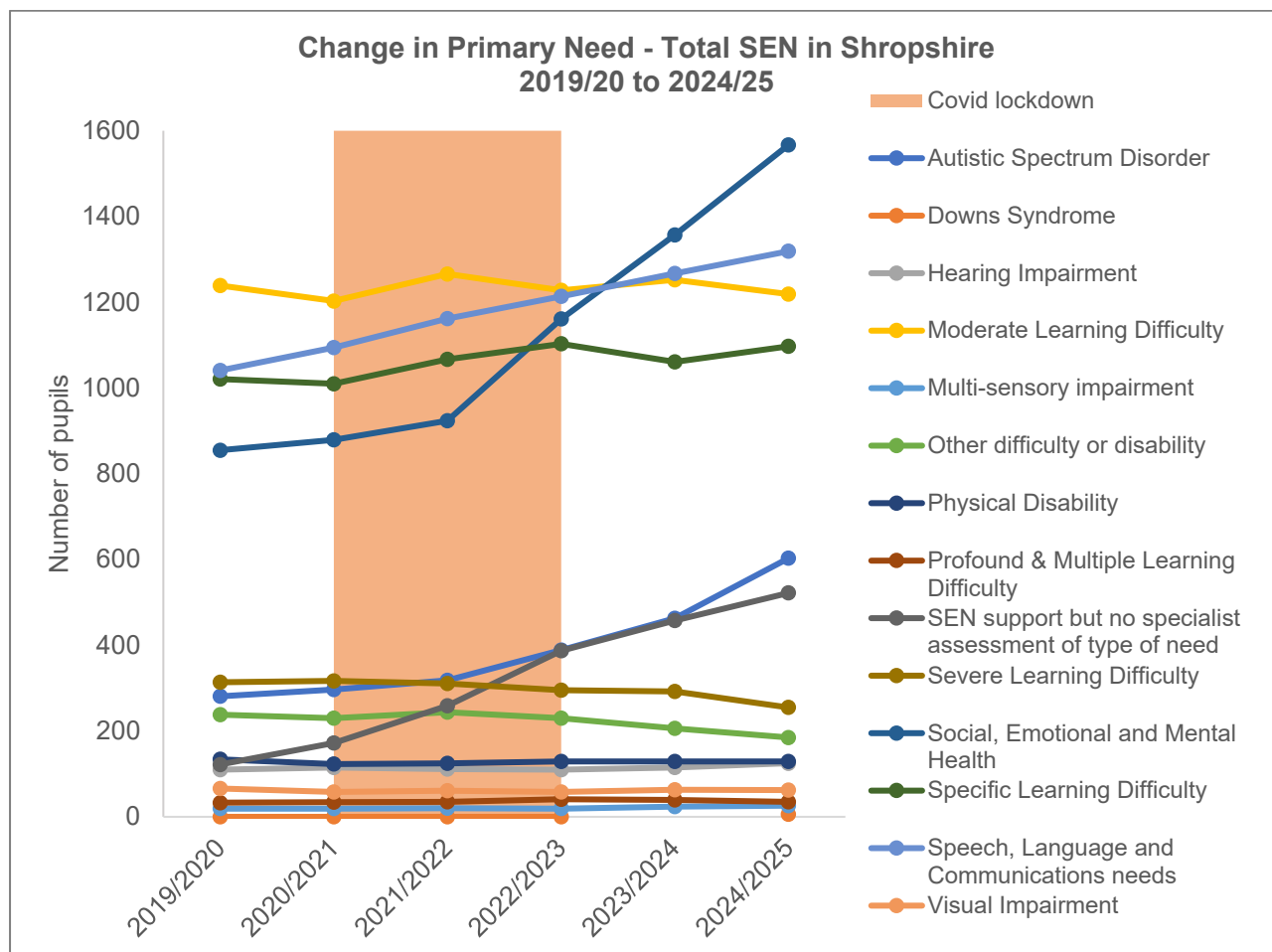
Chart showing all pupils with SEN in Shropshire by primary need, in state funded schools, 2024/2025 with West Midlands and England comparison. Source [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



The chart below shows some of the large changes in the total SEN population by primary need from pre-pandemic (2019/20) to last year, among the biggest changes were:

- SEMH has risen from 855 pupils to 1,567, an increase of 83% (712 pupils).
- Pupils with SEND support and with SLCN as a primary need have seen a 27% increase since pre-pandemic levels (2019-20), up from 1,041 to 1,319 pupils.
- More than a 3-fold increase in pupils with their primary need identified as no specialist assessment of type of need*, with a rise of 400 pupils (122 to 522)
- 115% increase in Autistic spectrum disorder (by 322 pupils, from 281 to 603)

Chart showing changes in primary need trends for all Shropshire SEN pupils comparing pre-pandemic (2019/20) to present (2024/25). Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england)

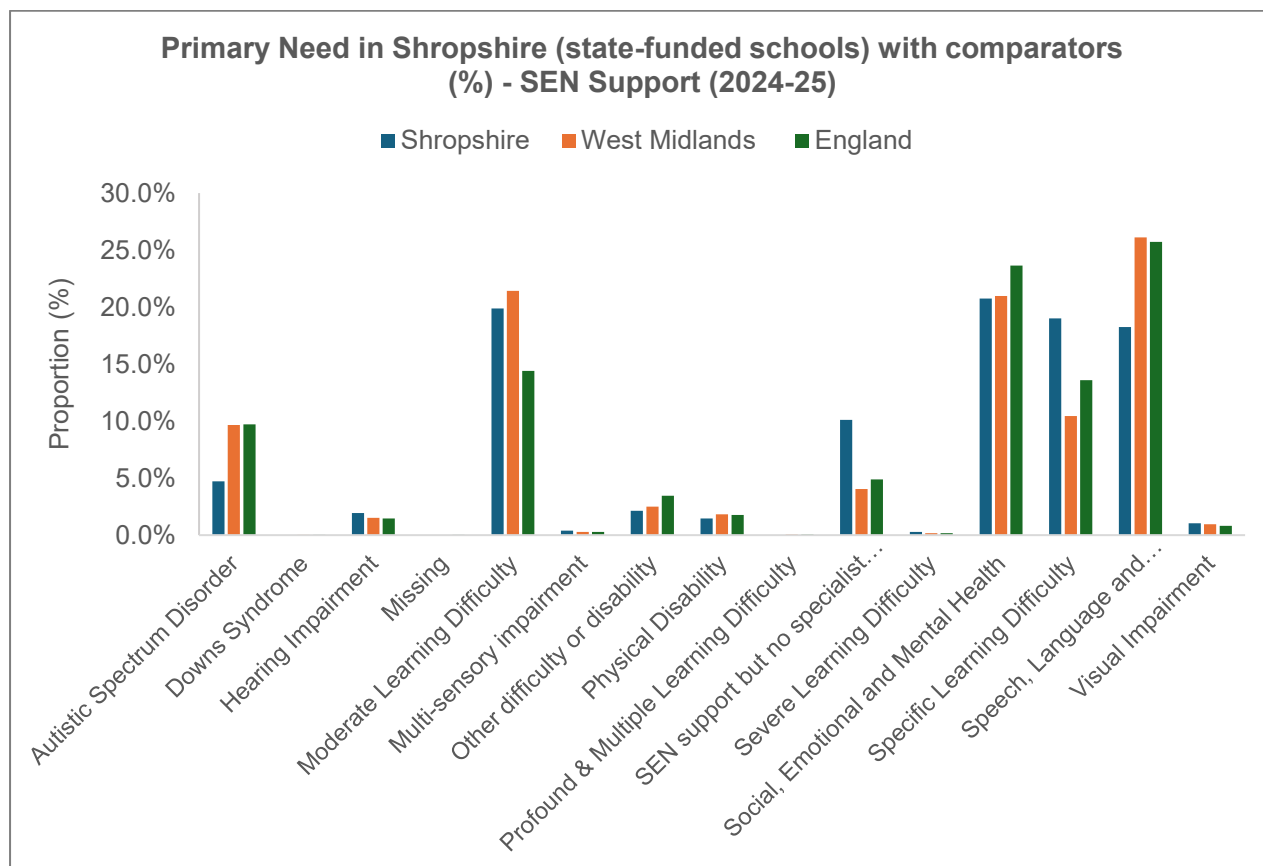


SEN Support- primary need

When it comes to those pupils on SEN support in Shropshire at state-funded, non-independent schools, the most prevalent primary needs in Shropshire were:

- SEMH at 20.7% (1,070 pupils), versus 21% (West Midlands) and 23.6% (England).
- SLCN at 18.3% (942 pupils), versus 26.1% (West Midlands) and 25.7% (England).
- MLD at 19.9% (1,025 pupils), versus West Midlands (21.4%) and England (14.4%).
- SpLD at 19.0% (981 pupils), versus West Midlands (10.5%) and England (13.6%).

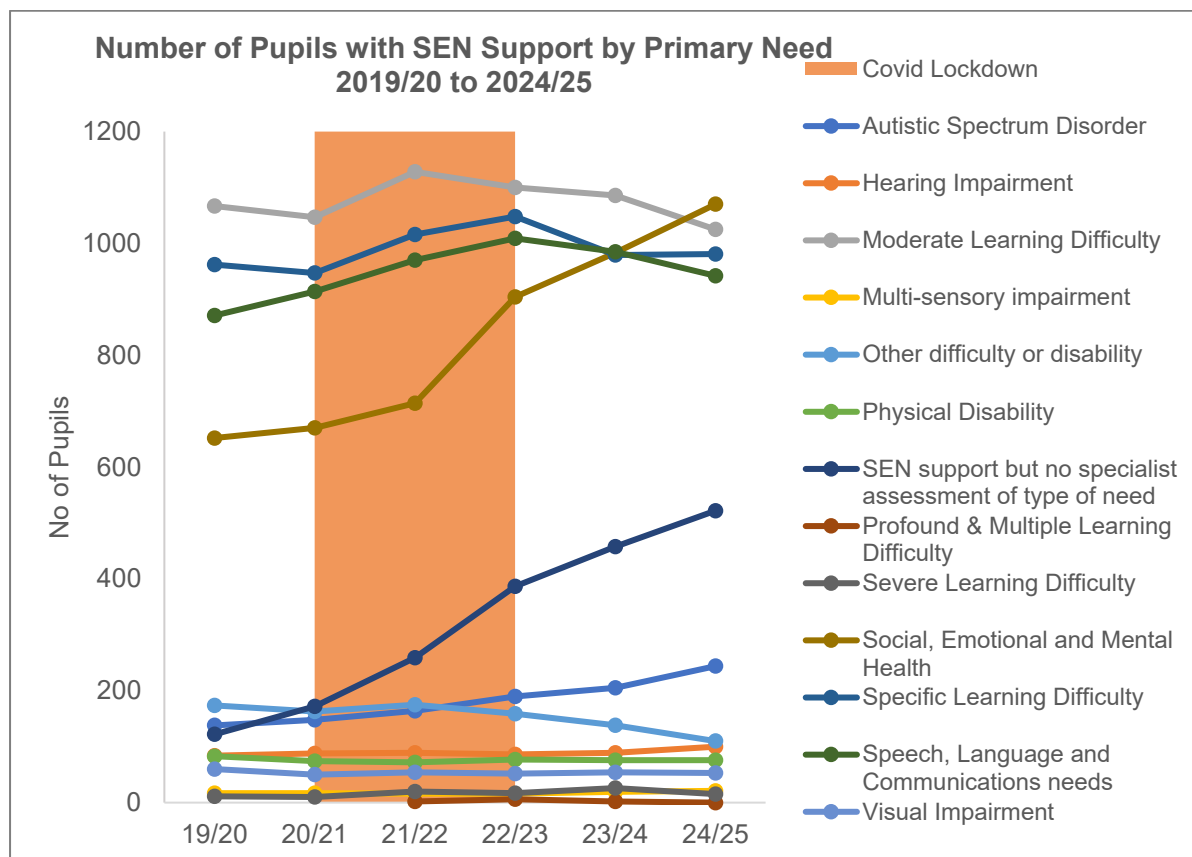
Chart showing the proportion of Shropshire pupils with SEN support by primary need with West Midlands and England comparison, 2024-25. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



The chart below shows the changes in primary need between 2019/20 to 2024/25 for those children on SEN support, with the most noticeable changes being:

- SEN support but no specialist assessment of type of need has risen from 122 pupils in 2019-20 to 522, an increase of 328% (400 pupils).
- Pupils with Autistic spectrum disorder have seen a 77% increase since pre-pandemic levels (2019-20), up from 138 to 244 pupils.
- A 64% increase in pupils with SEMH which is a rise of 418 pupils going from 652 to 1,070

Chart showing the number of Shropshire pupils with SEN support by primary need, 2019-20 to 2024-25. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

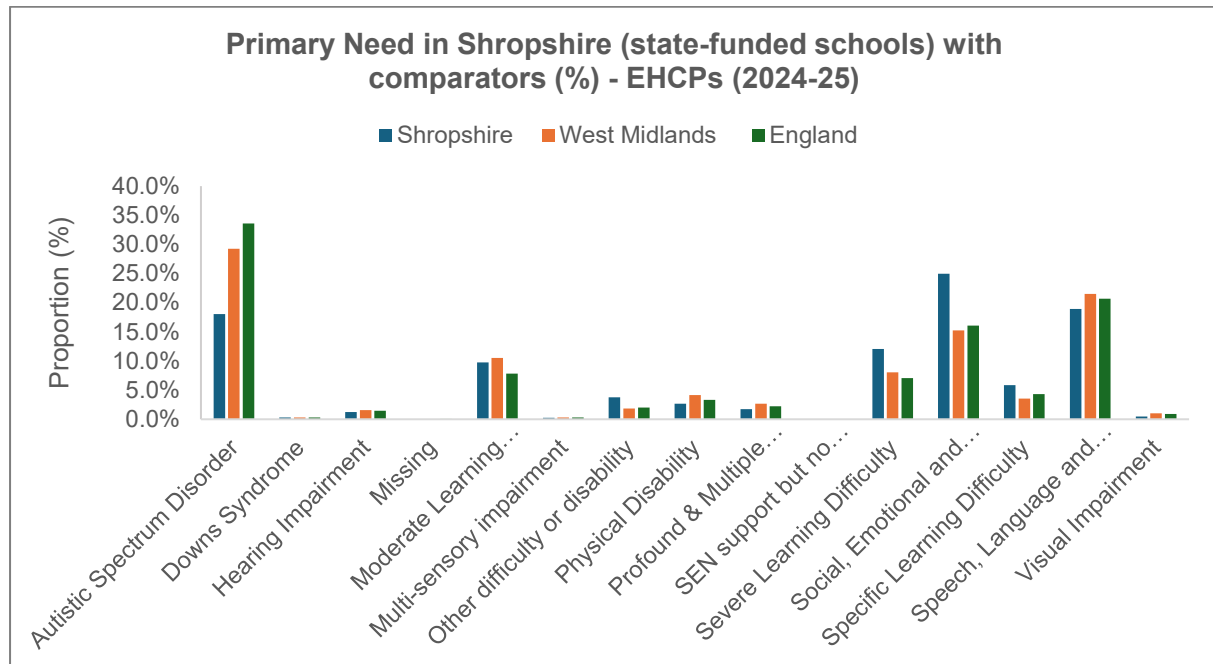


EHCPs – primary need

When it comes to those pupils on EHCPs in Shropshire at state-funded, non-independent schools, the most prevalent primary needs in Shropshire were:

- SEMH at 25% (497 pupils), versus 15.3% (West Midlands) and 16% (England).
- SLCN at 18.9% (377 pupils), versus 21.5% (West Midlands) and 20.7% (England).
- ASD at 18% (359 pupils), versus to West Midlands (29.3%) and England (33.6%).
- Severe Learning Difficulty at 12.1% (240 pupils), versus to West Midlands (8%) and England (7%).

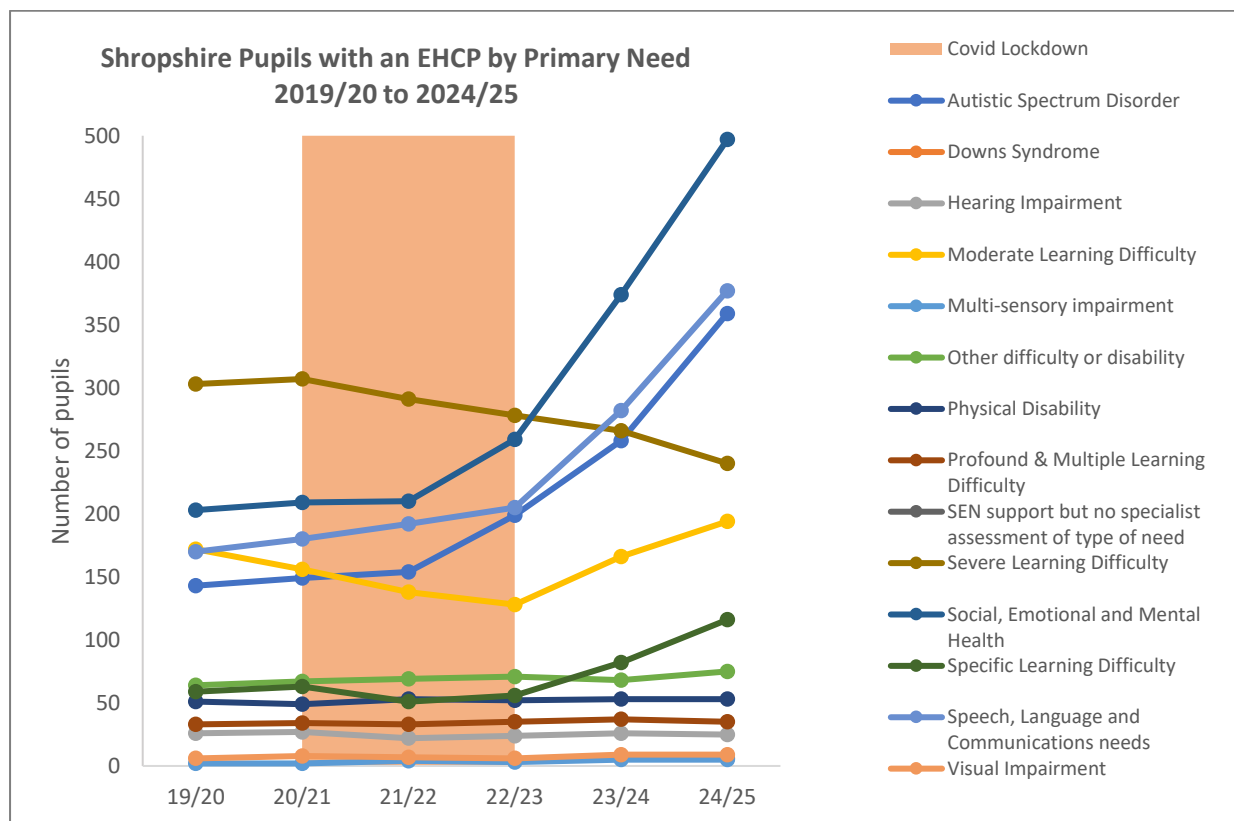
Chart showing the proportion of Shropshire pupils with an EHCP by primary need with West Midlands and England comparison, 2024-25 Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-academic-year-2024-25)



The chart below shows the changes in primary need between 2019/20 to 2024/25 for those children with EHCPs, with the most noticeable changes being:

- Pupils with Autistic spectrum disorder have seen a 151% increase since 2019-20, up from 143 to 359 pupils – an increase of 216.
- A 145% increase in pupils with SEMH in this period which is a rise of 294 pupils going from 203 to 497
- A 122% increase in pupils with SLCN which is a rise of 207 pupils – going from 170 to 377 pupils.
- Specific learning difficulties have risen 97% (57 pupils) from 59 to 116.

Chart showing the number of Shropshire pupils with an EHCP by primary need, 2019-20 to 2024-25. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



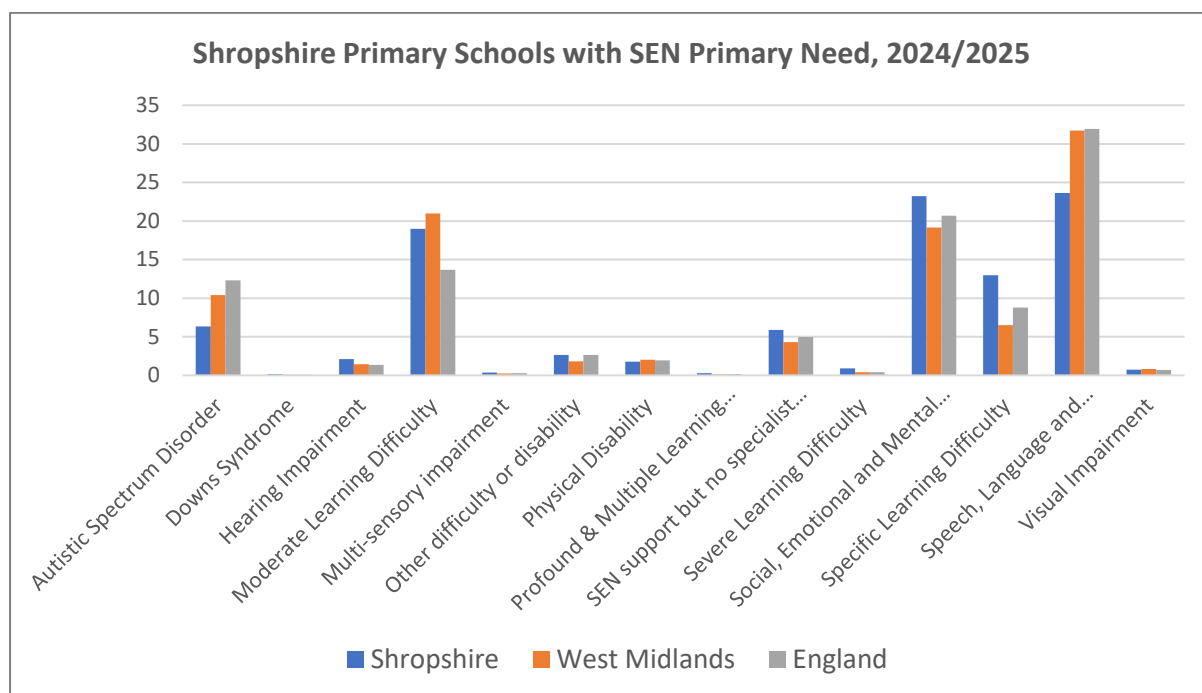
Primary need by school phase

State-funded primary schools

In 2024-25, 23.6% of Shropshire's primary school SEND have speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) as their main need, which is lower than regional and national proportions of 31.7% and 31.9% respectively. The number has been on the rise since 2019-20, from 805 pupils to 996 pupils in 2024-25 (23.7% increase).

Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) was another prevalent primary need at 23.2%, which was higher than the regional and national (19.2% and 20.7% respectively). Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD) for Shropshire is slightly lower at 19.0% than regionally (21%), but higher than nationally (13.7%).

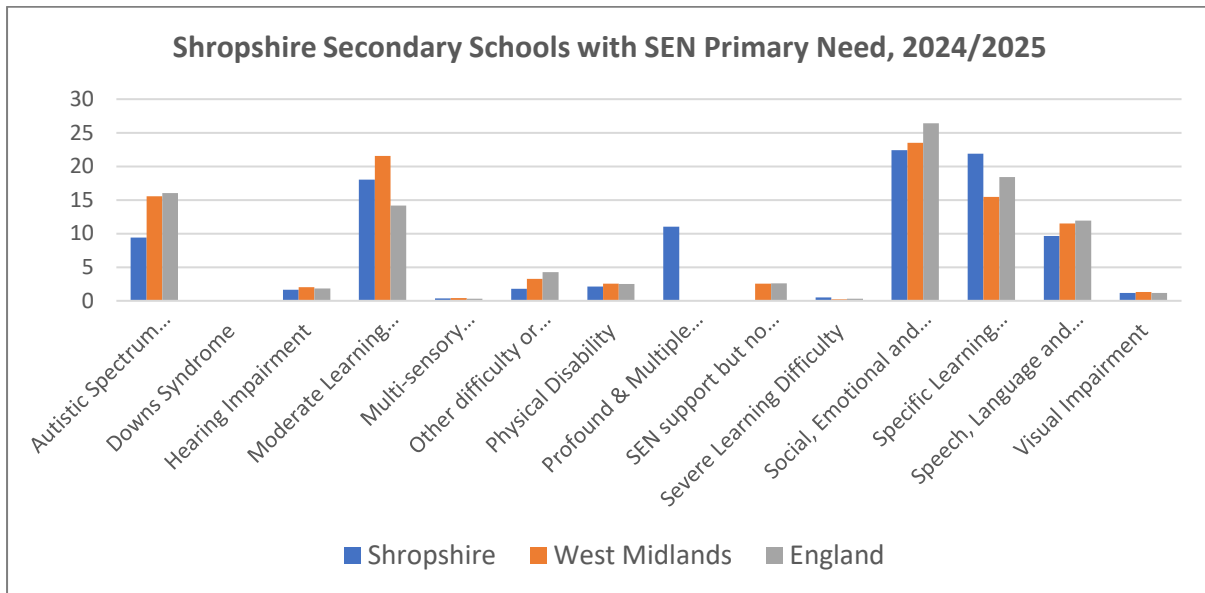
Chart showing the proportion of Shropshire pupils with SEND support (SEN support and EHCP) in state funded primary schools by primary need, 2024-25 with West Midlands and England comparison. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



State-funded secondary schools

In 2024-25, SEMH, Specific Learning Disability, and Moderate Learning Difficulty were the most prevalent primary needs among SEND secondary state-funded school pupils in Shropshire, at 22.4%, 21.9% and 18.0% respectively. SEMH rates for Shropshire were slightly lower than the regional and national proportions of 24% and 26% respectively. Specific Learning Difficulty rates for Shropshire were higher than the regional and national rates (21.9% locally, 15.5% regionally, 18.4% nationally).

Chart showing the proportion of Shropshire pupils with SEND support (SEN support and EHCP) in state funded secondary schools by primary need, 2024-25. Source: [Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)



State-funded special schools

Severe learning difficulty was the most prevalent primary need among SEND pupils in special schools, at 37.0% (214 pupils), which was higher than the West Midlands (15.7%) and England (16.7%). SEMH second most prevalent primary need in Shropshire at 17.1% compared to 11.5% regionally and 12.1% nationally.

Chart showing the proportion (%) of Shropshire pupils on SEND support (SEN support and EHCP) in state funded special schools by primary need, 2024-25 with West Midlands and England comparison. Source: Special educational needs in England, Academic year 2024/25 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK

