



Who has additional support needs?

In Scotland, we have a broad definition of what might mean someone needs additional support to learn. It includes anything that means someone might need some extra help with their learning, either for a short or long time.

The number of children and young people who we know have additional support needs has been growing. More pupils also have lots of things going on for them, not just one thing, that can make it difficult for them to learn.

At the moment, about 3 out of 10 pupils in Scotland have an additional support need.



At the same time as the number of pupils with additional support needs has gone up, the amount of money that has been spent on providing support has either gone down or stayed the same. This means people are getting less support in school and services outside of schools are also struggling to help.



Recommendation: How money is spent

- Audit Scotland makes sure that public money is being spent properly. They should use what Angela has found out to help them to decide if money that has been spent on children and young people with additional support needs has made a difference.
- Audit Scotland should look at **how much** money has been spent and **how much** of a difference it has made. They should say when good things are happening and where things need to be better.



Recommendation: Rights

- A document called the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child lists all of the rights that children should have. In 2021, these rights will become law in Scotland. It is important that laws and plans on additional support for learning match up with the law on children's rights.

You can find out more information on children's rights at:
<https://reach.scot/rights/know-your-rights-uncrc/>

This summary was written by members of staff at Children in Scotland and commented on by members of the Children in Scotland children and young people's advisory group, Changing our World. It is based on the Executive Summary of the **Additional Support for Learning Review**. Changes have been made to the words used and the layout of information. No changes were made to the topics included.