

What to expect from



Walsall SENDIAS

This factsheet is to help you get the most from Walsall SENDIAS. It will help you understand what SENDIAS is, what we do and don't offer, and how we can best support you.

Aim of SENDIAS

SENDIAS(S) (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service) aims to empower parents/carers, children, and young people to play an active and informed role in making decisions about their education, health, and social care.

Our role as an information, advice, and support service (IASS) is to help parents/carers, children, and young people build their knowledge, understanding, and confidence in SEND procedures, policies, practices, and law, and enable them to communicate their own needs, wishes, aims, and rights.

Free	Impartial	Confidential	Arms-length	Fully Trained
There are no fees to pay no matter how much, or how often, you receive support.	We do not favour one party (e.g. family, educational setting, or local authority) over another We treat all parties respectfully We do not have a vested interest in the outcome of any discussions.	We keep your details on a secure and independent database and will not share your details or discuss your case with anyone else without your permission.	SENDIAS is separate from educational settings, the local authority, and health services. SENDIAS is a statutory service (required by law under the Children's and Families Act 2014). It is run by Family Action in Walsall.	Our staff and volunteers have extensive training in SEND law, safeguarding, data protection, and are all DBS checked.

Walsall SENDIAS
01922 612008

walsallsendiass@family-action.org.uk



Is SENDIAS for you?

To receive support from us you must meet the following criteria:

Be a parent/carer of a child or young person who:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lives in Walsall.• Is 0-25 years old.• Has special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). A diagnosis is not needed to receive support.• Has a query or issue related to SEND. <p>All four of these criteria must be met to receive support from us. There is no need for a formal referral to access our service.</p>
Be a child or young person who:	
Be a professional supporting a child or young person who:	

How SENDIASS can support you?

SENDIASS can offer information and support in the following areas:

- SEN (Special Educational Needs) Support in early years, school, or college
- Improving communication with educational settings, local authority, health, and social care
- Choosing a nursery, school, college, or alternative provision
- Transition between educational settings or between Children's and Adult's services
- Transport to educational placement
- Annual Reviews of Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- EHCP Application and Needs Assessment
- Appeals to Tribunal for refusal to assess for an EHCP, refusal to issue an EHCP, contents of an EHCP, ceasing to maintain an EHCP, and placement
- Exclusions and part-time timetables
- Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)
- Disability Discrimination
- Making a complaint
- Health and social care queries related to the child or young person's disability

SENDIAS do	SENDIAS do not
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Empower you to feel confident to express your views and wishes. ▪ Help you to understand and exercise your rights. ▪ Advise you of your options so you can make an informed decision. ▪ Provide templates and examples for letters, emails, and paperwork. ▪ Provide resources in various formats to support your query (e.g., webinars and factsheets). ▪ Help you to prepare for meetings or tribunals. ▪ Accompany you to meetings and tribunals if you are unable to advocate for yourself. ▪ Review documents and forms such as EHC Needs Assessment requests, draft and final EHC Plans and appeal paperwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make decisions for you, you know your child's and your own wishes and needs best. ▪ Attend all meetings. * ▪ Arrange meetings or take minutes. * ▪ Write letters or emails for you. * ▪ Complete paperwork on your behalf. * ▪ Print or photocopy documents for you. * ▪ SENDIAS does not hold power over the local authority or school policies, procedures and practice. ▪ Review benefit forms such as DLA or PIP. <p>*Unless you have additional support needs that mean you cannot undertake these actions independently.</p>

Please note:

- We are a small team with some staff working part time.
- Please check working days and times, detailed on staff email signatures, and be respectful of these when awaiting responses.
- If your enquiry is urgent and the person you have been speaking with is not working or is on leave, please contact **01922 612008** or walsallsendiass@family-action.org.uk