SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS
High-quality teaching for pupils with SEND

The evidence review for this guidance report found strong evidence that improving high quality teaching for all pupils will improve outcomes for pupils with SEND. Teachers should develop a repertoire of these strategies they can use flexibly in response to individual needs and use them as the starting point for classroom teaching for all pupils, including those with SEND.

"The importance of good quality teaching cannot be underestimated. The SEND Code of Practice is clear that schools should regularly check that high-quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching."

**Rachel Rossiter, Assistant Head and SENCo in a school in Suffolk**

Scaffolding

Scaffolding offers temporary supports, such as a writing frame, that is gradually removed as the pupil becomes increasingly independent. Scaffolding is commonly considered part of guided practice in explicit instruction. Scaffolding can also be used to reinforce consistent expectations for behaviour - for example, what equipment is needed for each lesson and classroom routines within the school day.

Explicit instruction

Explicit instruction refers to a range of "teacher-led" approaches, focused on teacher demonstration followed by guided practice and independent practice. Explicit instruction is not just "teaching by telling" or "transmission teaching". It usually begins with detailed teacher explanations, followed by extensive practice, later moving on to independent work.
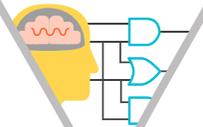
Technology

Technology can assist teacher modelling. For example, a teacher may use a visualizer to model worked examples in English. To increase pupils' practice, technology applications, such as online quizzes can prove effective. Speech generating apps to enable note-taking and extended writing can be helpful. Technology, as a method to provide feedback to pupils and/or parents can be effective, especially when the pupil can act on this feedback.

Cognitive & Metacognitive strategies: chunking

Cognitive strategies are skills like memorisation techniques or subject-specific strategies like methods to solve problems in maths. Metacognitive strategies help pupils plan, monitor and evaluate their learning. Chunking the task at each stage will support pupils with SEND - this may be through provision of checklists or providing one question at a time to make the information easier to process.

Flexible grouping

Flexible grouping describes an in-class approach that sees groups formed with an explicit purpose. They focus on a specific learning need and are purposely disbanded when the purpose is met. Allocating temporary groups can allow teachers to set up opportunities for collaborative learning, for example to read and analyse source texts or complete graphic organisers.