

Special Education Needs Teacher

What is it?

SEN teachers work with children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). They adapt lessons to meet individual learning needs and help students develop academically, socially, and emotionally. SEN teachers may work in mainstream schools, special schools, or pupil referral units.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

You need to gain a **Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)**. This can be achieved through:

- An undergraduate degree that includes QTS.
- A **Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)** if you already have a degree.
- A **Teacher Level 6**
- **Level 7 Apprenticeship**.

You'll also need:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), including English and maths.

What the Work Involves:

- Planning and delivering lessons tailored to individual needs.
- Supporting students in small groups or one-to-one.
- Preparing teaching materials and writing reports.
- Managing behaviour and encouraging independence.
- Working with parents, carers, and professionals like therapists and psychologists.
- Organising trips and running training for other staff.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

The demand for SEN teachers is expected to grow by **3.5% by 2029**. With experience, you could become a **Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)**, **Head of Department**, or move into **educational psychology**, **teacher training**, or **school leadership**.

Typical weekly hours – 37 to 45 hours per week.

Mostly during school term time. Some evening work may be required for meetings or planning.

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

- Patient and calm under pressure.
- Empathetic and understanding.
- Creative and adaptable in teaching methods.
- Strong communication and teamwork skills.
- Committed to helping every child reach their potential.

Money/Wage Guide:

- **Starting Salary: £32,000**
- **Experienced Salary: Up to £49,000**
- **Average UK Salary (2024): £37,430**

Related Opportunities:

- **Teaching Assistant (SEN)**
- **Educational Psychologist**
- **Speech and Language Therapist**

Further Information:

- [National Careers Service – SEN Teacher](#)
- [Careerpilot – SEN Teacher](#)