



A BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Parent/Carer Guide:

Preparing for Your Child's Year 8 Annual Review

Supporting your child's journey together at Alt Bridge School

What Is an Annual Review?

An Annual Review is a meeting to look at how your child is doing and make sure their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) still meets their needs. It's a chance to talk about progress, update goals, and make sure the right support is in place.

Why Is It Important?

At this stage in Year 8, your child is growing and changing—academically, socially, and emotionally. The review helps us to:

- Check progress towards EHCP outcomes
- Update any changes in needs
- Set new targets for the next year
- Plan ahead for future transition (such as Year 9 options)
- Hear your views as a parent or carer
- Celebrate what your child has achieved

Who Will Attend?

- You – your insight is vital
 - Form teacher or key staff
 - Therapists (if involved) – such as speech and language or occupational therapy
 - Local Authority SEND Officer (if needed)
 - Your child – if appropriate, and with support
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Looking Ahead: Planning for Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)

Year 8 is an important time to begin thinking about what comes next for your child in Key Stage 4. We'll support you in starting these conversations early so that decisions are thoughtful, realistic, and based on your child's individual strengths and needs.

Here's how you can get involved:

- **Explore Possible Pathways** – Your child might follow a more academic route, a vocational (practical) pathway, or a life skills-based approach—depending on their needs, interests, and aspirations. We'll help you understand each option.
 - **Understand the Whole Picture** – We'll talk about your child's recent progress, including results from assessments like the CAT (Cognitive Ability Test) and curriculum achievements. But we don't just look at numbers—we'll also share observations from staff, examples of your child's work, and strengths we've seen in areas like creativity, communication, or emotional development.
 - **Talk Openly About Strengths and Challenges** – We'll highlight what your child is doing well and any areas where extra support might be helpful. These early discussions will help shape the right curriculum and qualifications in the future.
 - **Ask Questions and Share Your Views** – You know your child best. Your thoughts and hopes for the future are key to planning the right next steps together.
 - **Stay Informed, Stay Involved** – We're here to support you every step of the way. Planning early gives your child the best chance to succeed in a pathway that suits them and prepares them for life beyond school.
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How Can You Prepare?

- **Reflect on the Year So Far** – What's gone well? Any new concerns or changes you've noticed?
 - **Review the EHCP** – Note any updates you'd like to suggest
 - **Think About the Year Ahead** – What are your hopes for Year 9 and beyond? Any longer-term goals (college, life skills, independence)?
 - **Gather Key Documents** – Bring any recent reports or letters (e.g., from doctors or therapists)
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Your Voice Makes a Difference

We want to hear your views. Your experience and insight help us provide the best support for your child. If you feel nervous, you're welcome to bring someone along for support, such as a friend or advocate.

After the Review

We'll send you a summary of what was discussed and any next steps. This will also go to the Local Authority, who will consider whether the EHCP needs to be updated.

Questions or Support?

Please contact your child's form teacher or our EHCP Clerk, Ms. Silker, if you have any questions before the meeting.

For parents/carers with access difficulties, we can hold meeting virtually or over the phone if this supports you to access your child's meeting. We are very keen to ensure that you are there so whatever we can do to support this, please let us know.

We're proud to support your child on their journey. Thank you for being such an important part of the team at Alt Bridge School.