

# Trends in special educational needs & the SEN stress-test 2021

January 2022



# Introduction

- This document presents an analysis of **SEN trends nationally** and how these **trends vary between local areas**.
- It has a particular focus on:
  - Number and rates of children with SEN.
  - Types of need.
  - Profile of provision used to respond to these needs.
  - Spending on independent and non-maintained special schools (i.e. specialist provision that is used when children's needs cannot be met locally).
- The latter half of this document – the SEN stress-test – recognises that local authorities are experiencing different pressures. This year, we use **6 indicators** to identify those who we think are experiencing the most pressures and stresses in relation to SEN provision.
- The first SEN stress-test was produced in 2014. **This is the update for 2021.**

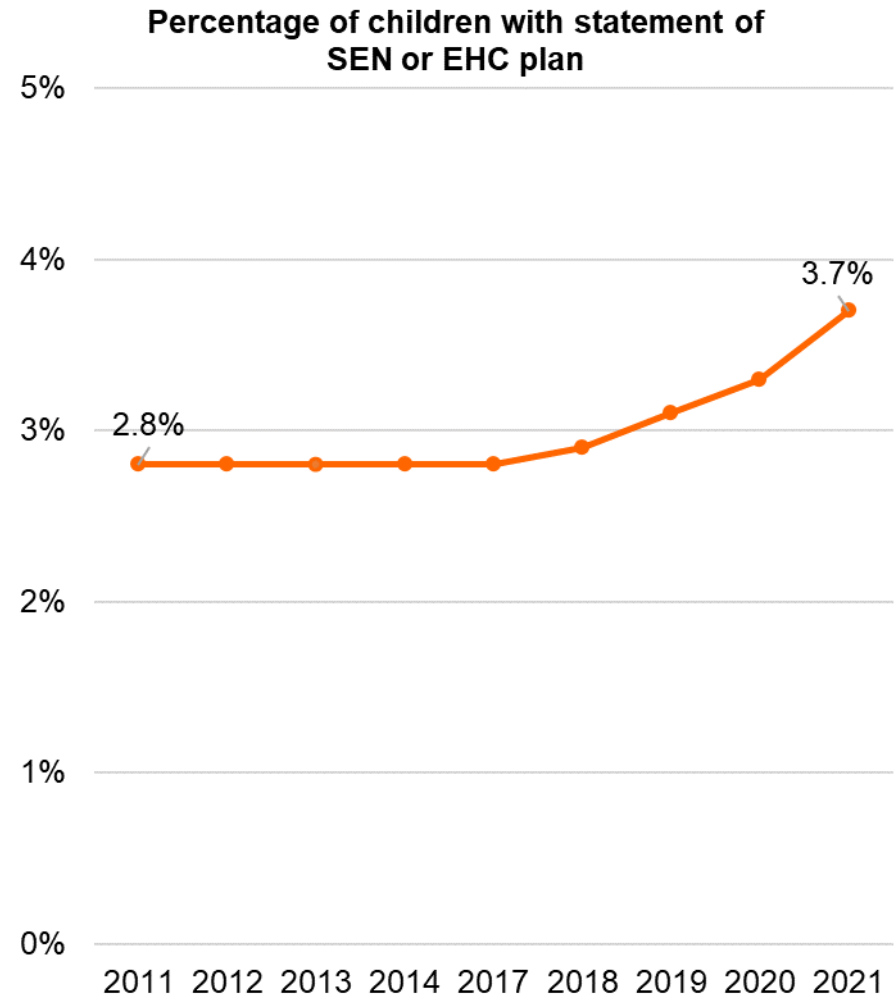
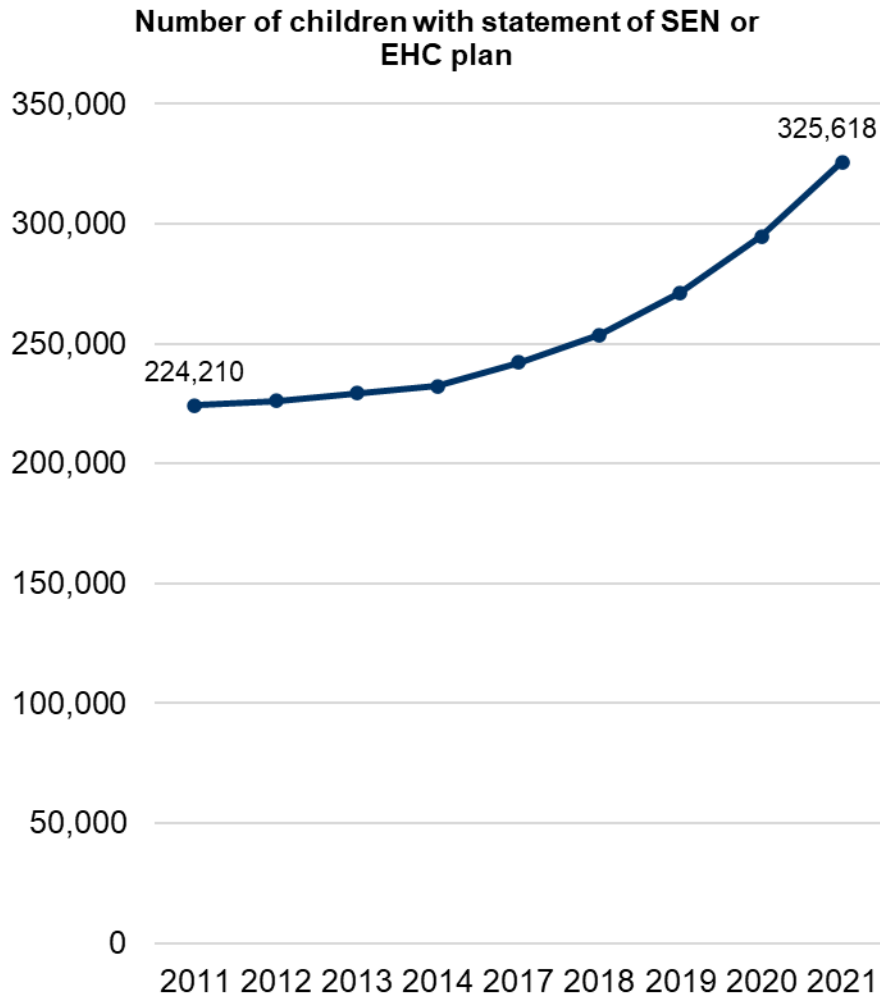
# A note about comparisons with previous years

- SEND reforms mean that some historical comparisons can be problematic. This is because:
  - **Since 2017**, information on primary need relates to those with **SEN Support & EHC plans**, whereas prior to 2015 it was School Action Plus & Statements
  - EHC plans cover **young people up to the age of 25**, whereas the previous SEND regime covered **young people aged 18 and under**
  - A new primary need of **Social, Emotional and Mental Health** was introduced in 2015. The primary need of **Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties** was removed in 2015 (but SEMH is not a direct replacement).
- Starting in 2020, **data for Bournemouth and Poole are recorded jointly**, and are omitted from any analysis where comparisons with earlier years are made (but included in analysis of 2021 in isolation).
- Some data has **not been collected for the 2021 update due to the COVID-19 pandemic**. Local authorities were not asked to submit **planned budgets or expenditure for 2020-21**, so this data has not been included. This means the 2021 stress test **is based on 6 indicators**, rather than 7 as in previous years.



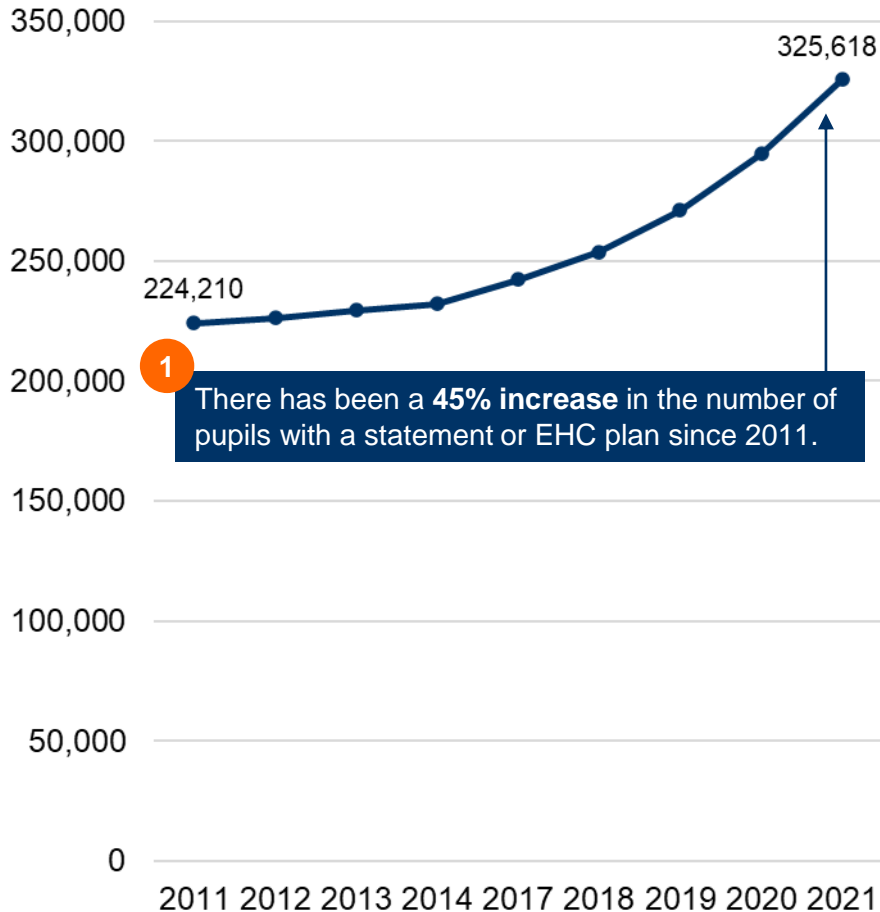
# The National Picture

# Number and percentage of pupils with statements or EHC plans in England (2011-21)

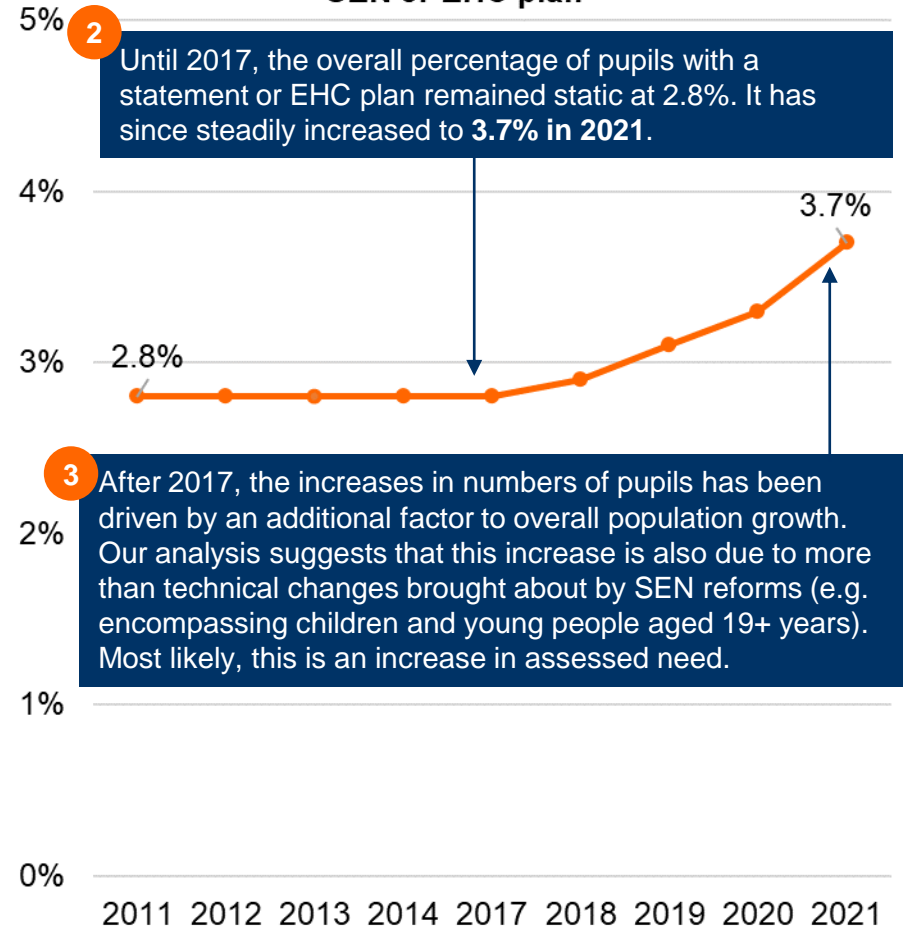


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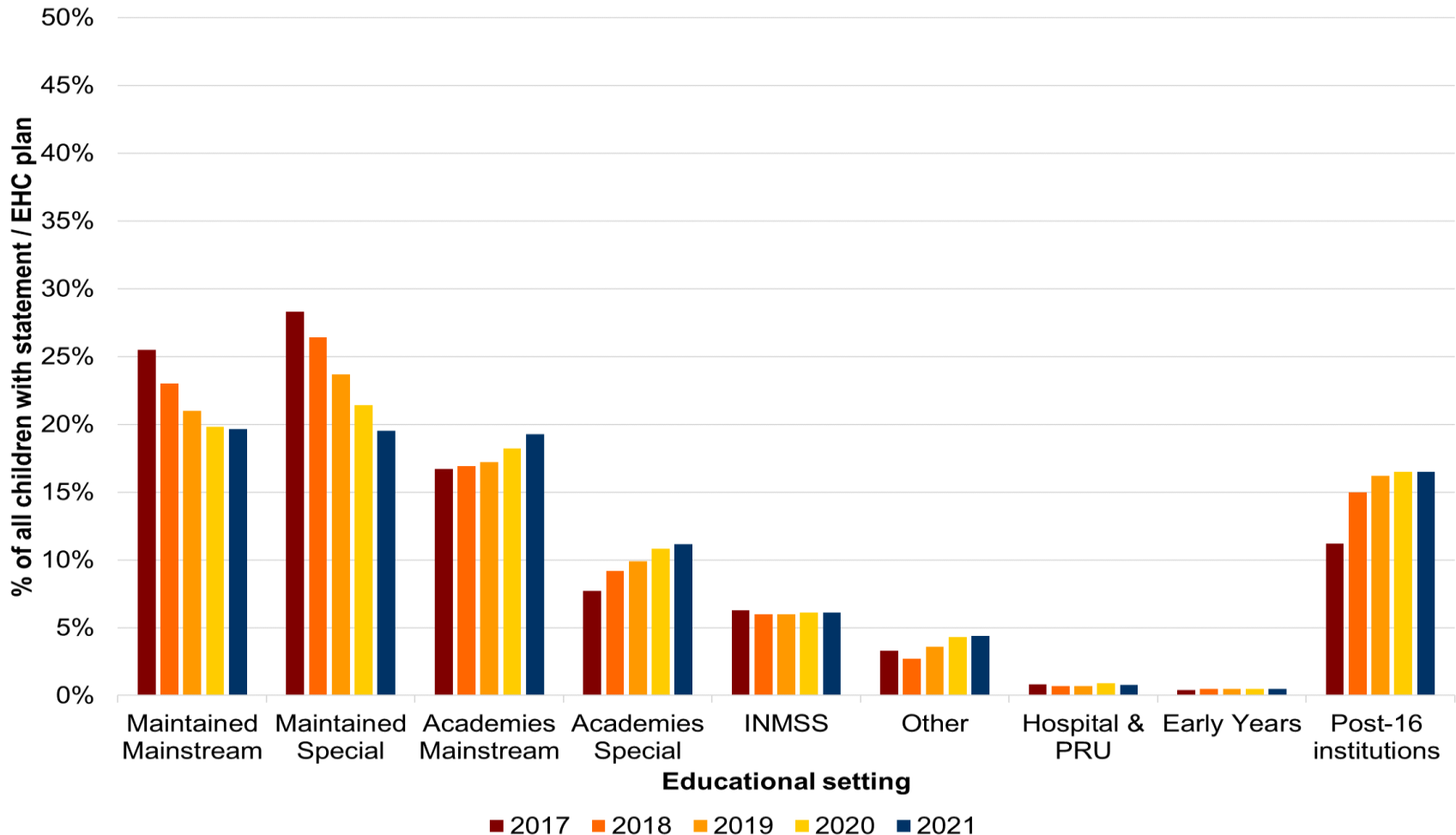
Number of children with statement of SEN or EHC plan



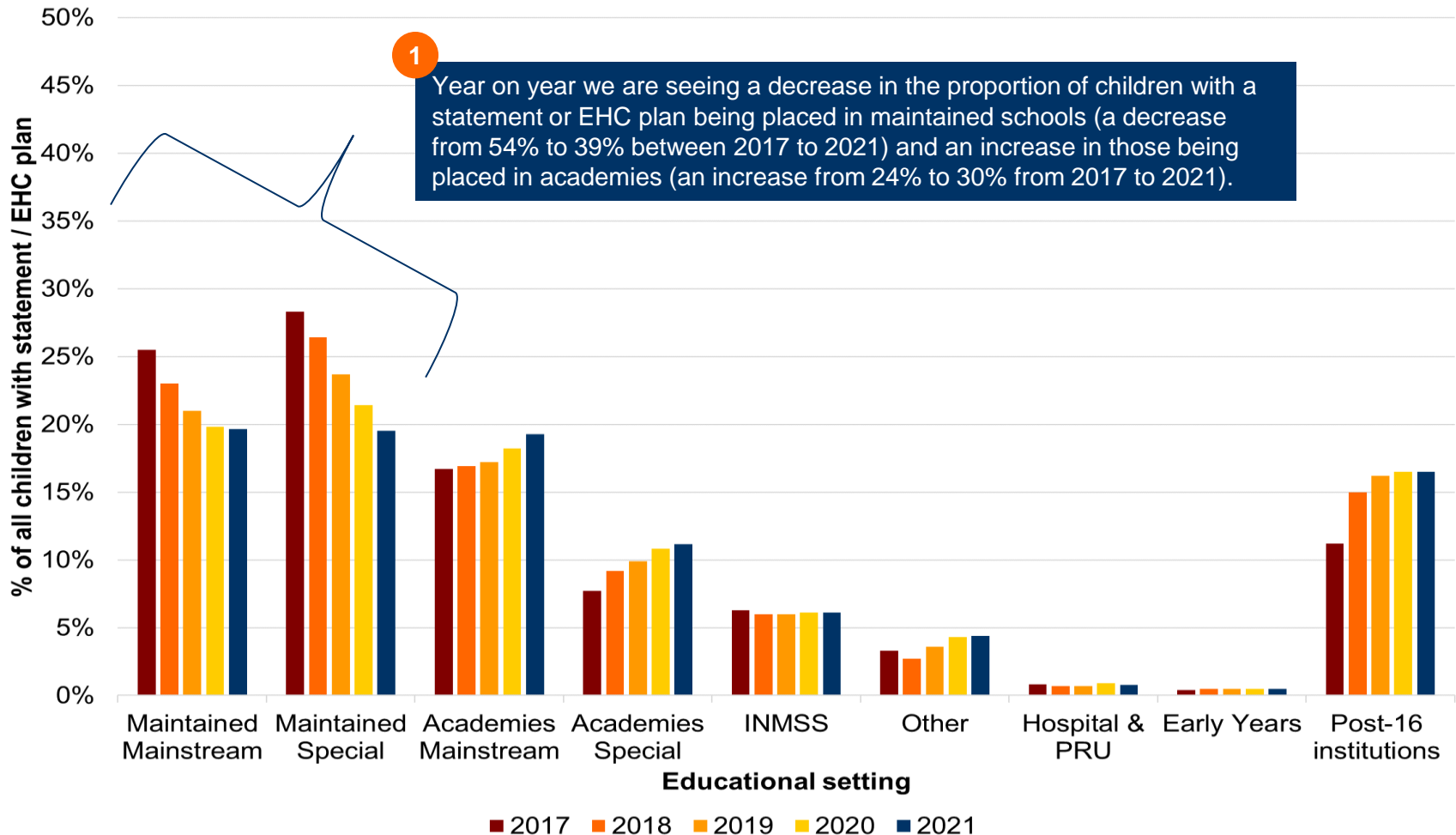
Percentage of children with statement of SEN or EHC plan



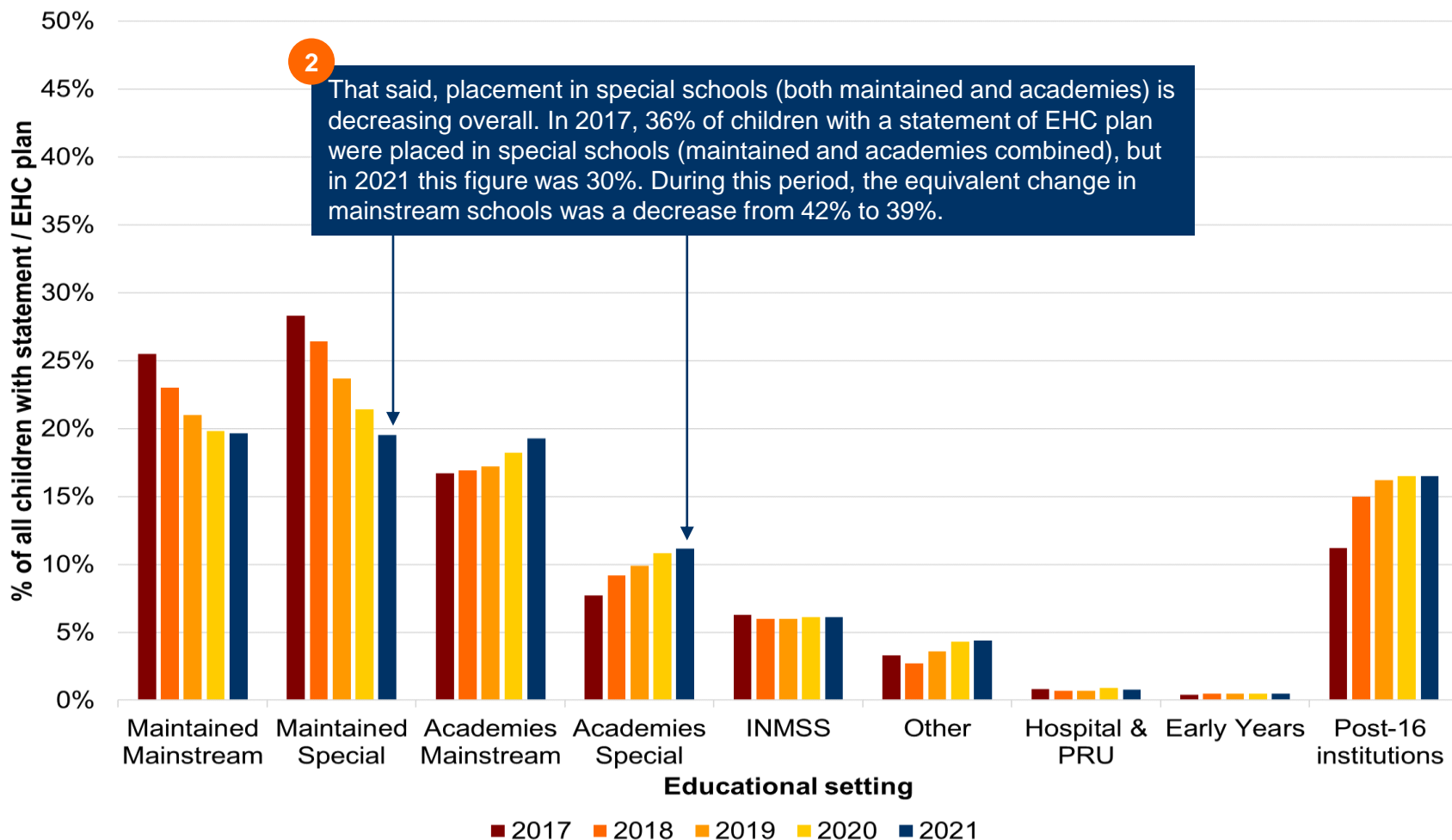
# Placement of children & young people with a statement or EHC plan in different settings (2017-21)



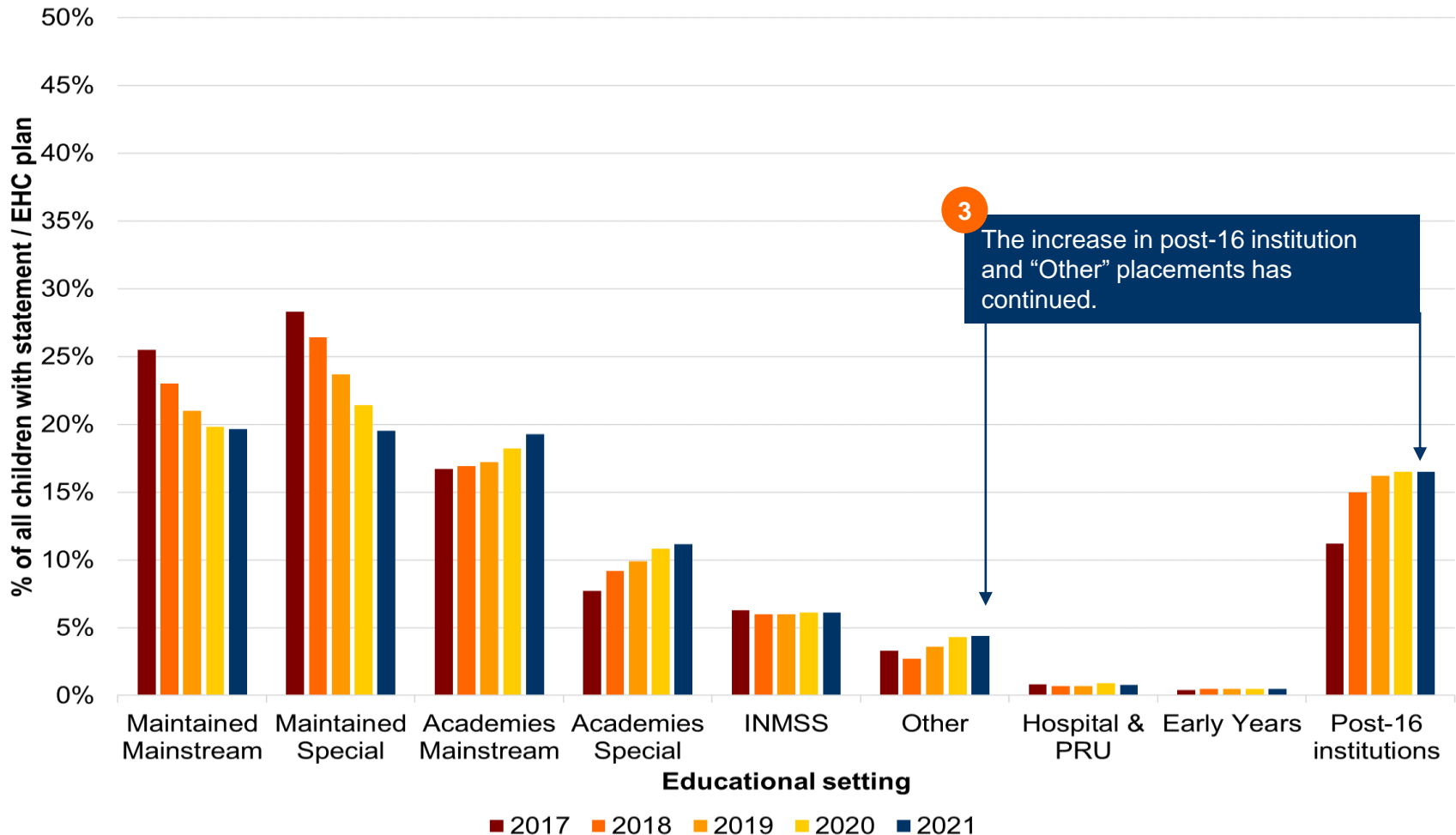
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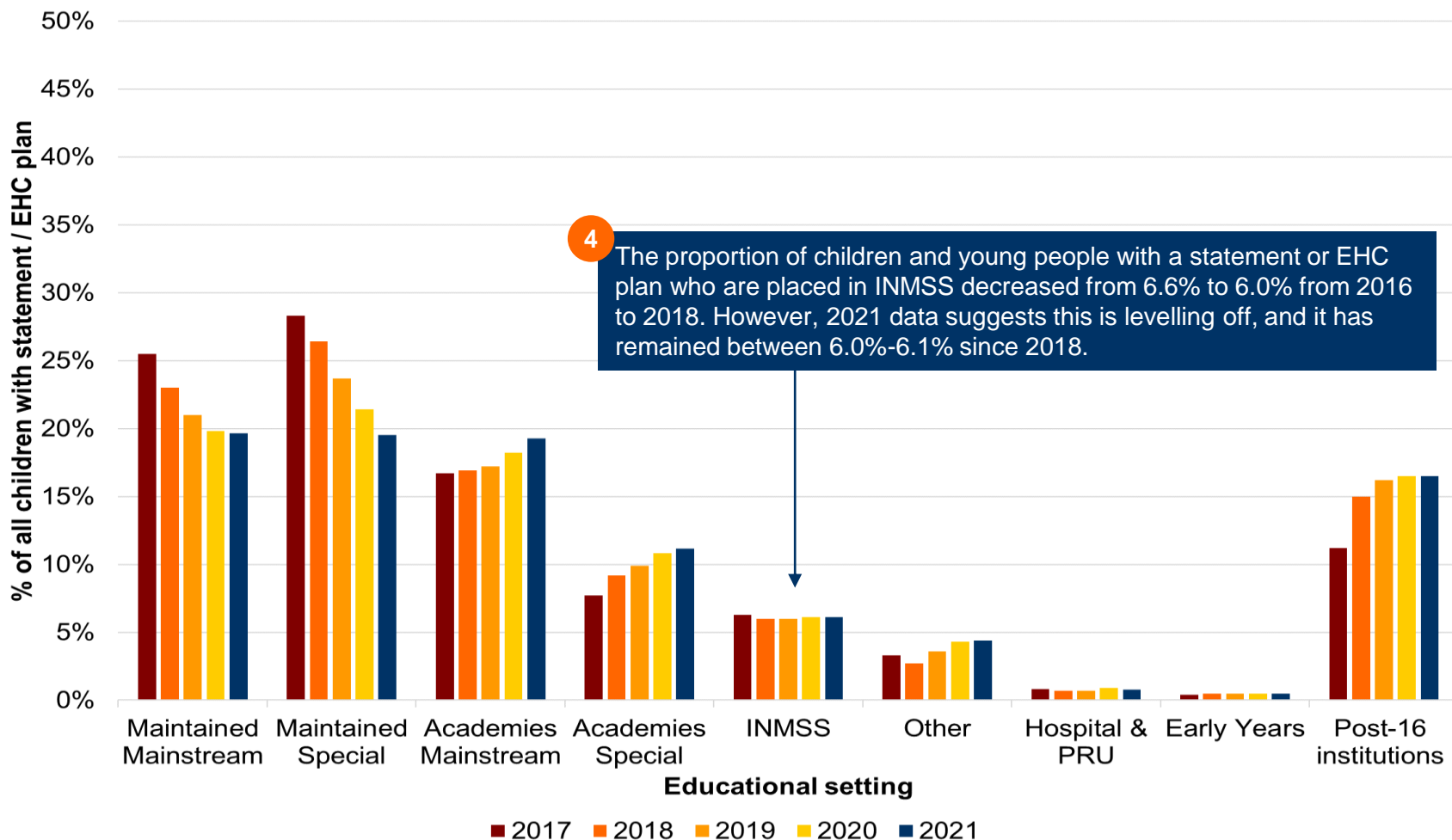
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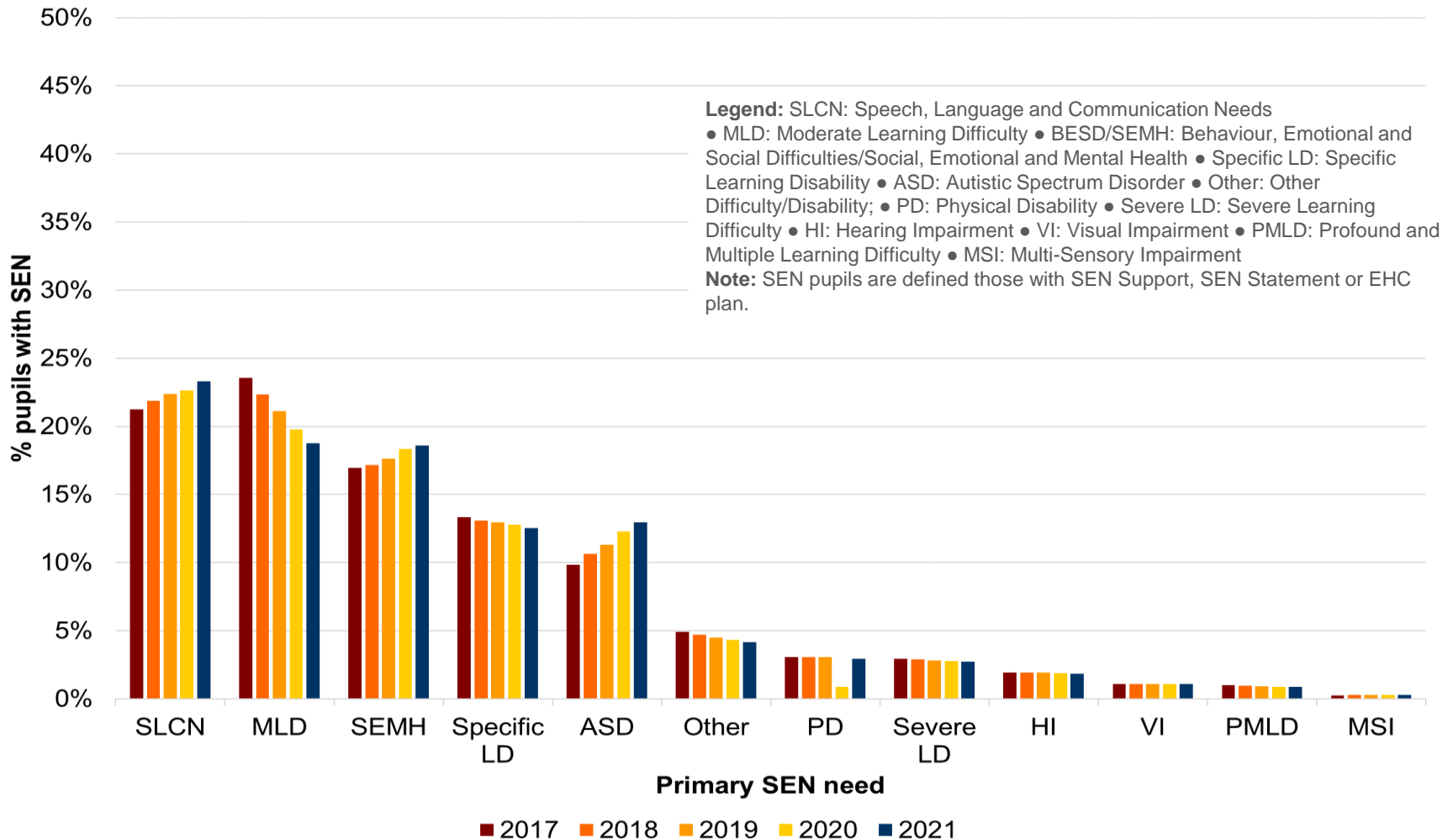


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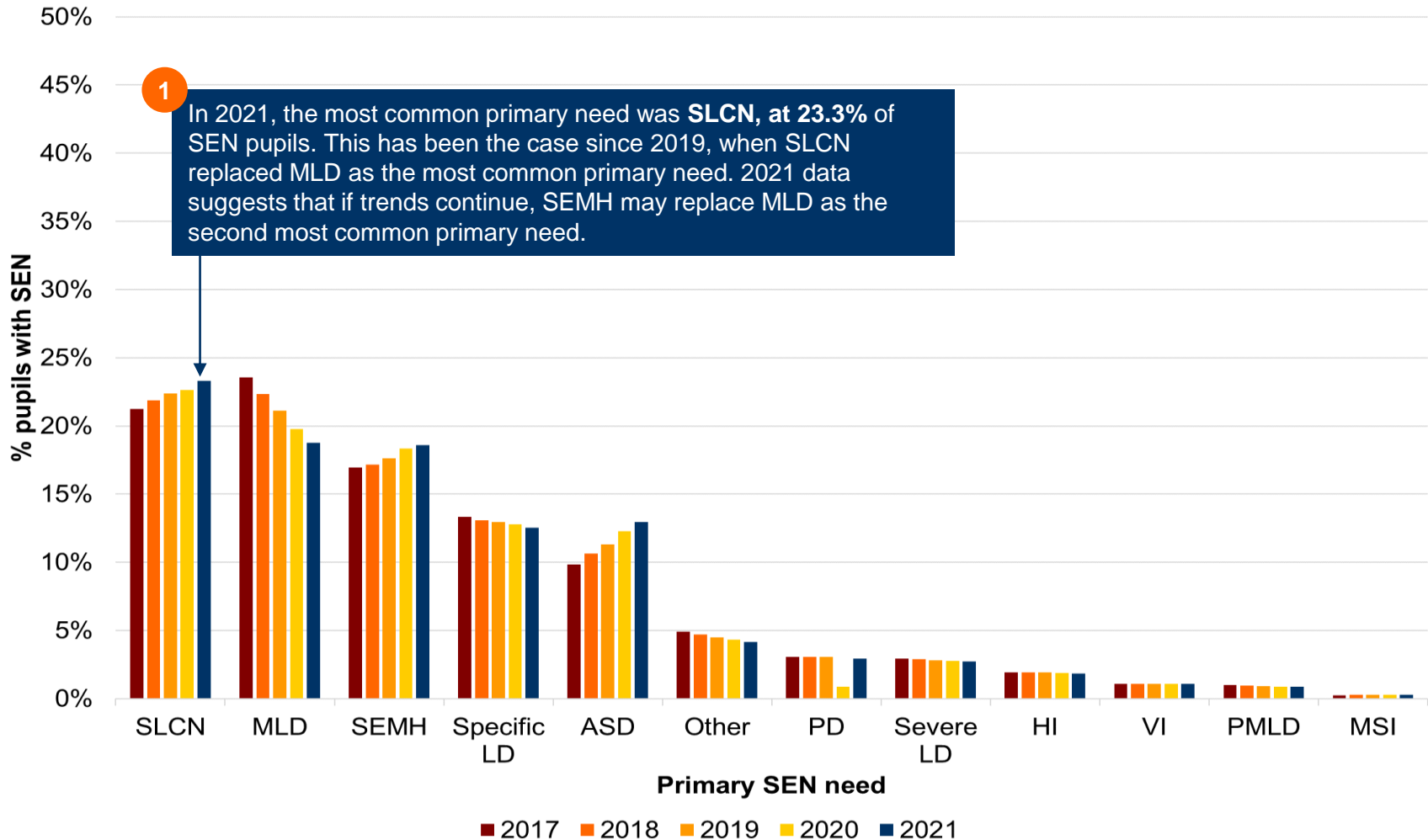
# Primary need among SEN pupils (2017-21)<sup>2</sup>

(state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools)



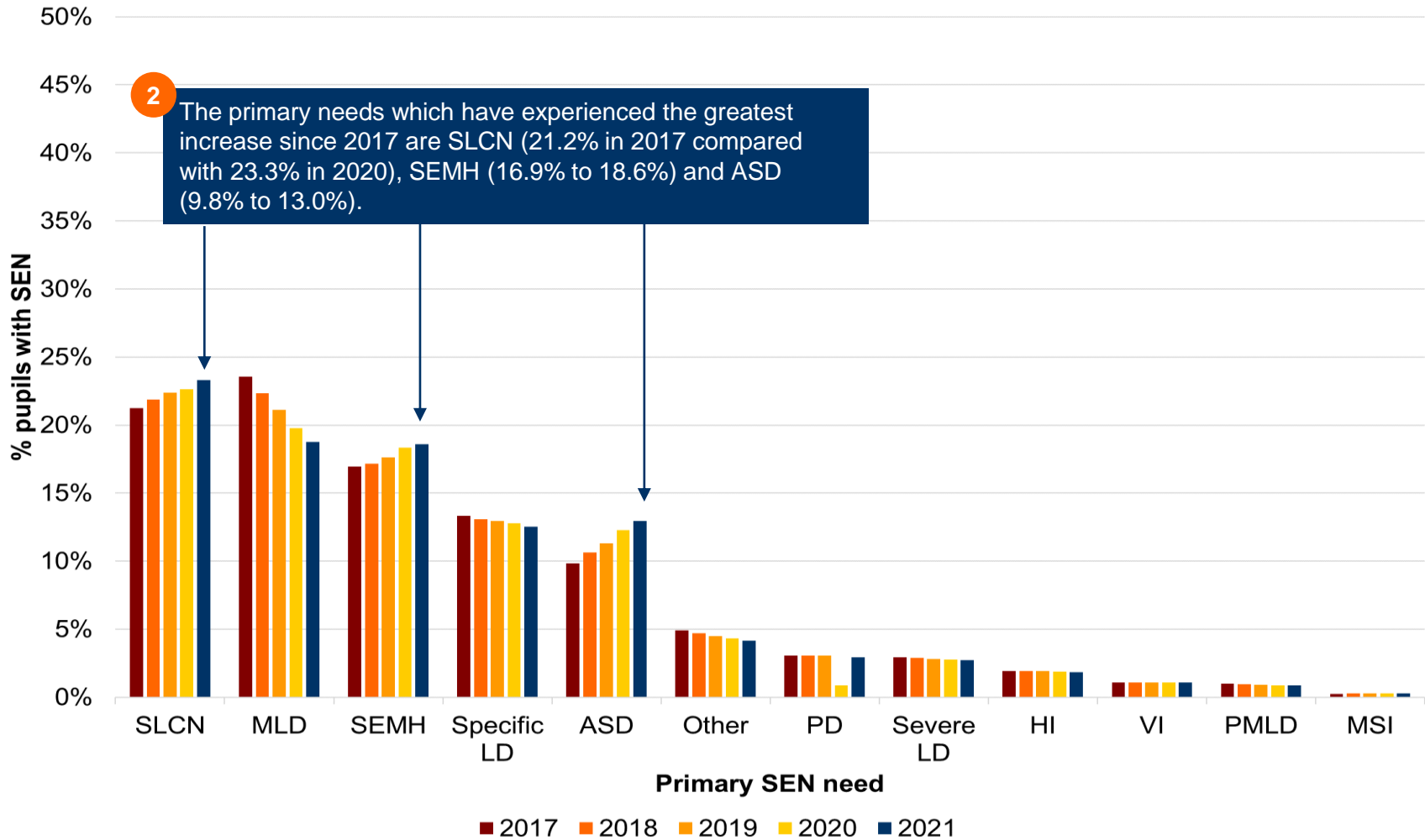
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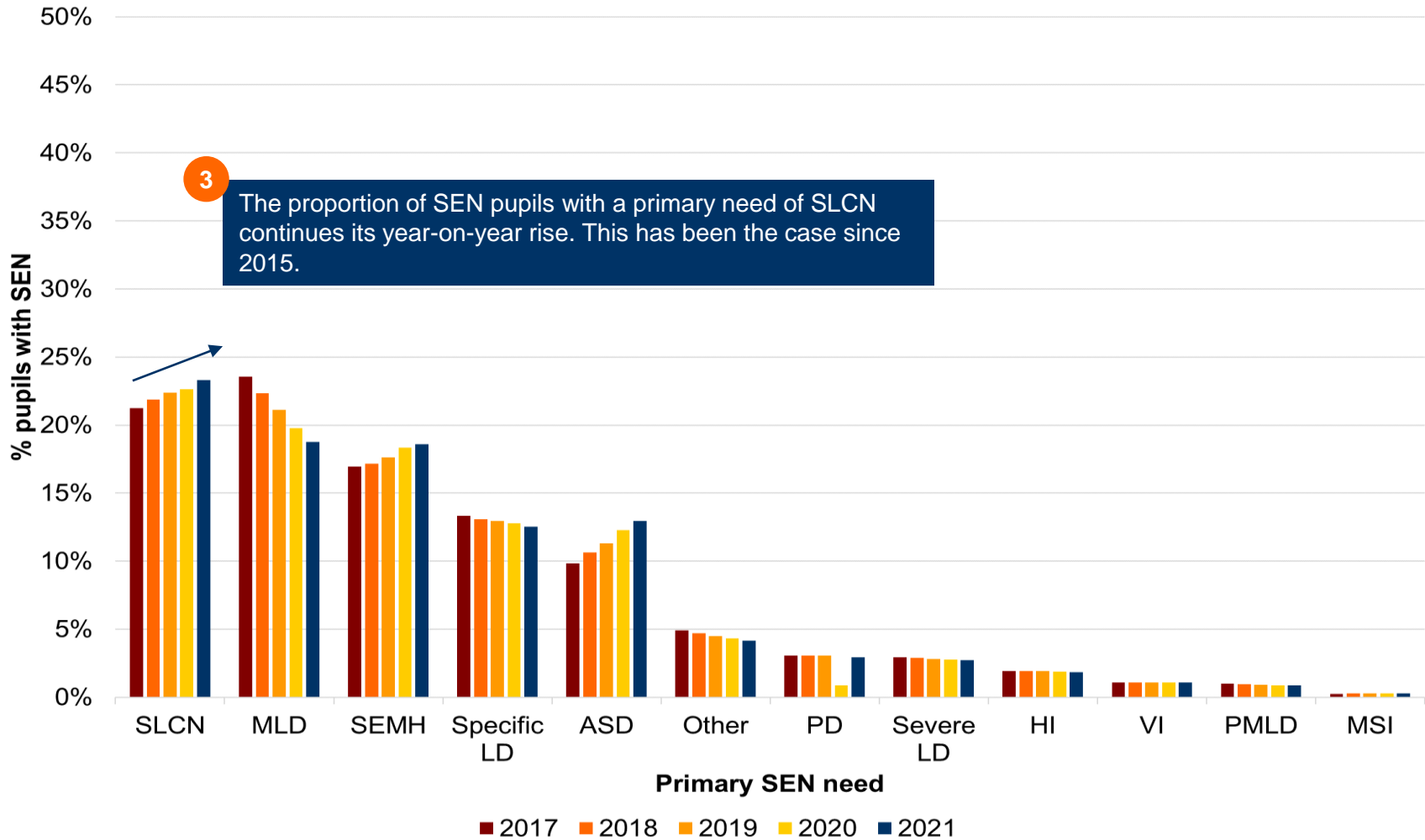
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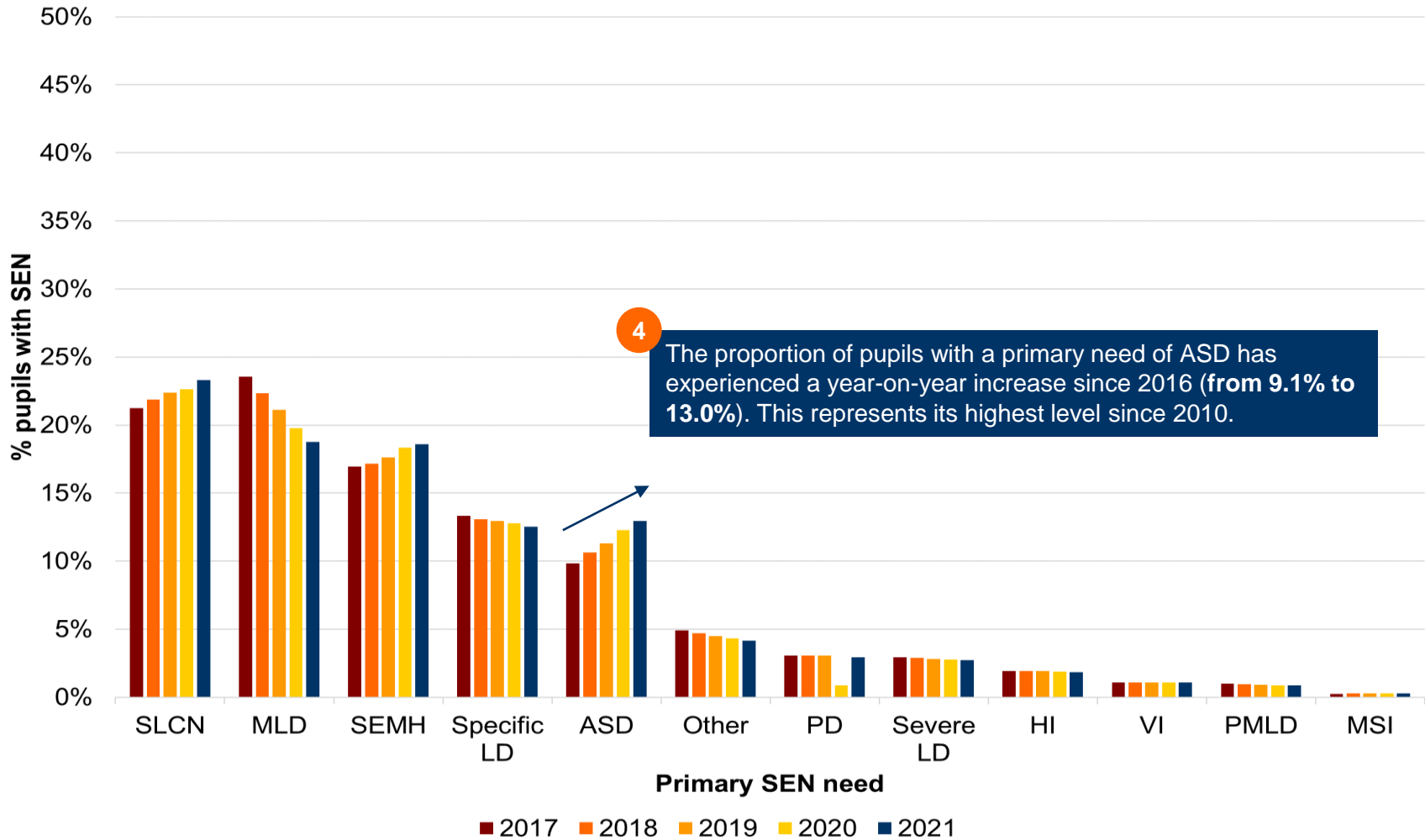
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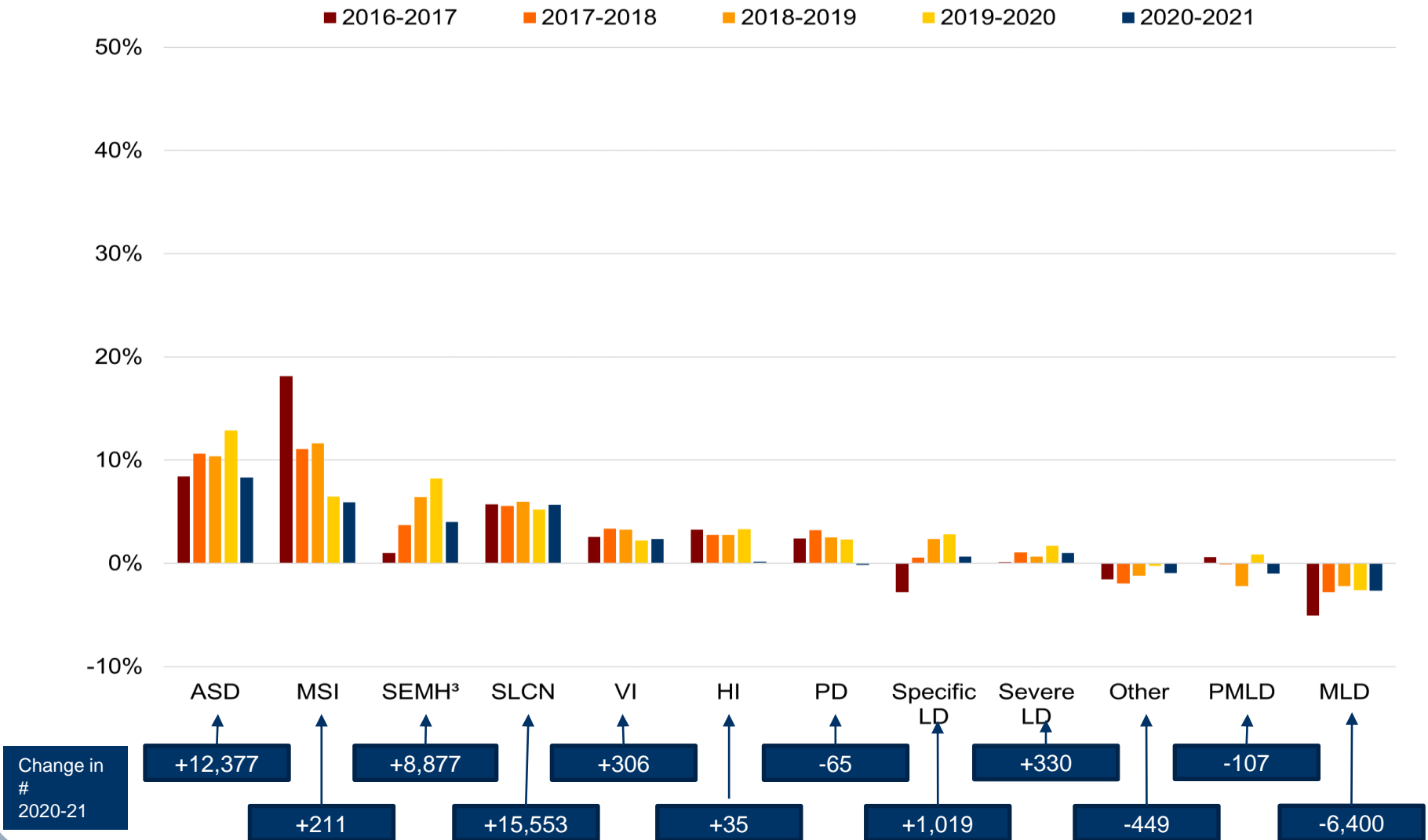
(state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools)





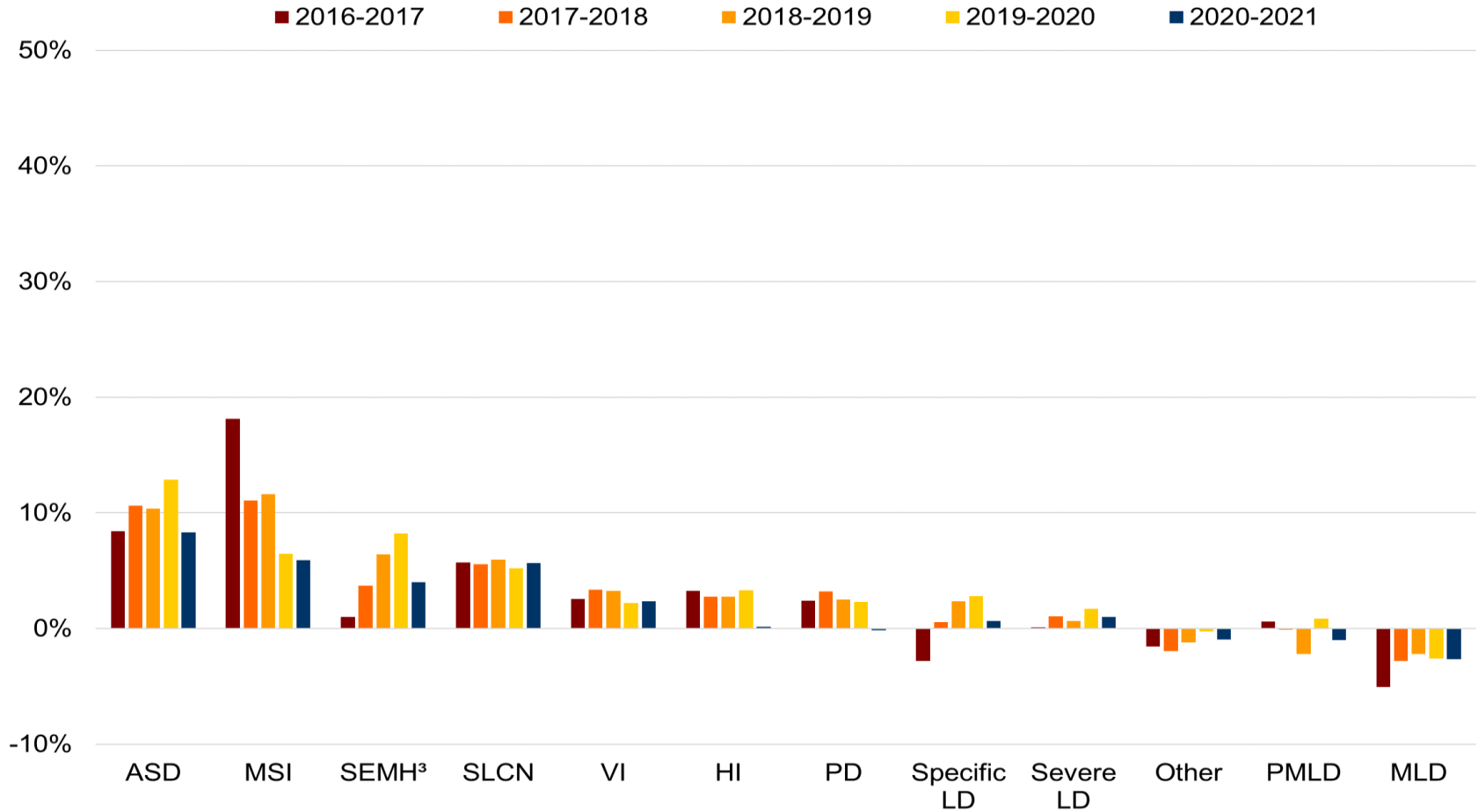
# Percentage change in numbers by primary need (2016-21)

(state-funded primary, state-funded secondary & special)



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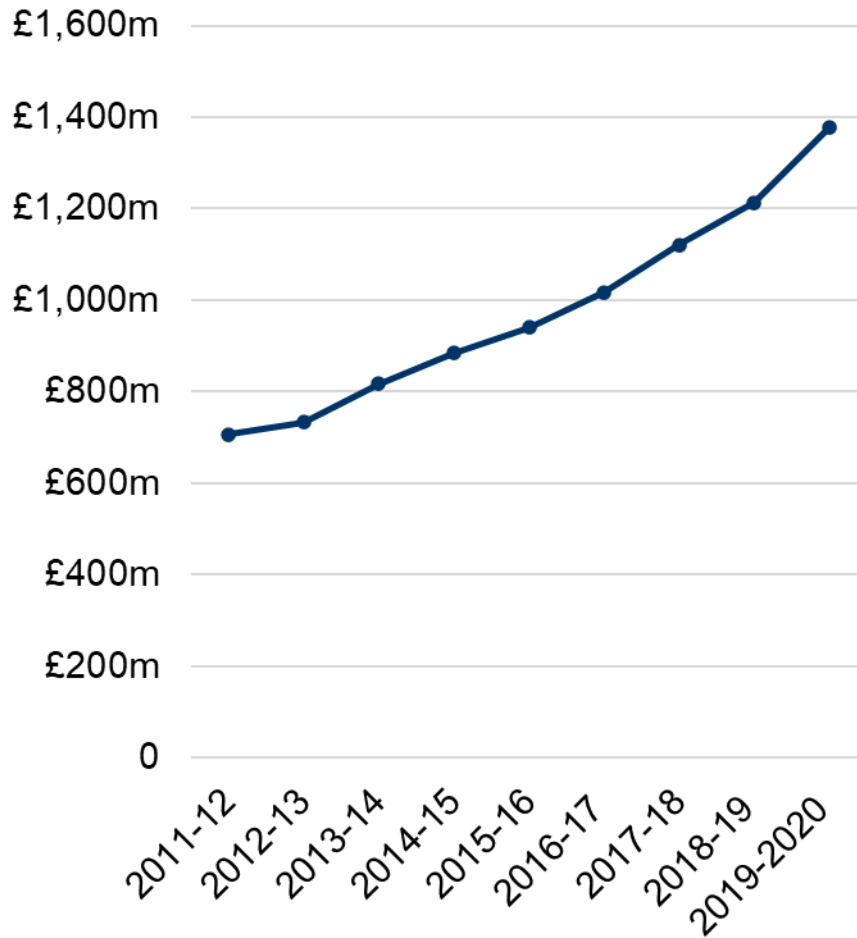
(state-funded primary, state-funded secondary & special)



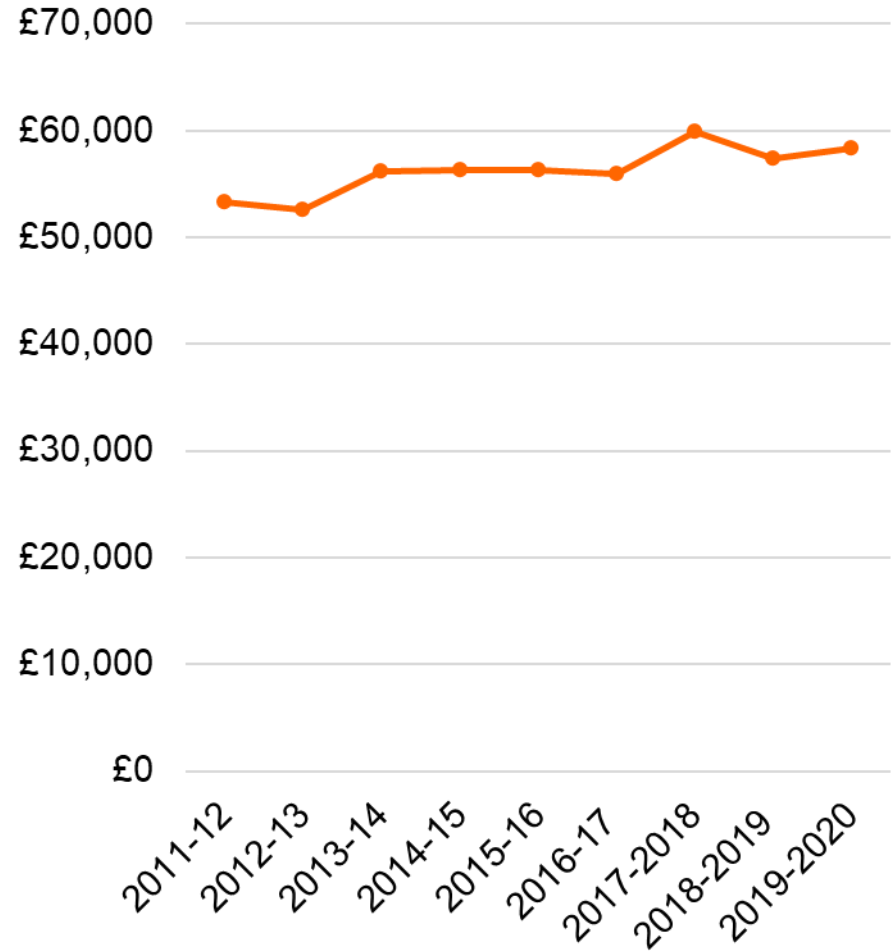
Despite changes in relative prevalence, the overall trend is for **year-on-year increases in the number of pupils presenting with each primary need in all cases apart from MLD, PMLD, and 'Other'**.

# Spending on INMSS<sup>5</sup> (2011-21)

Spend on INMSS

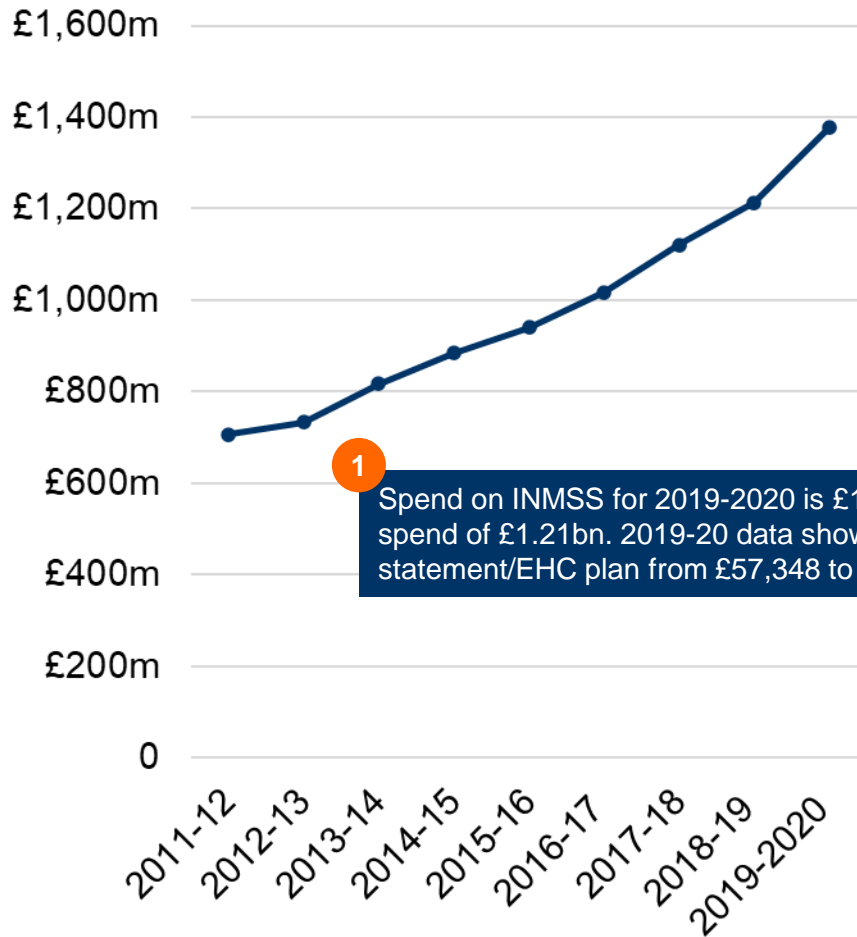


INMSS spend per pupil with statement / EHC plan in INMSS

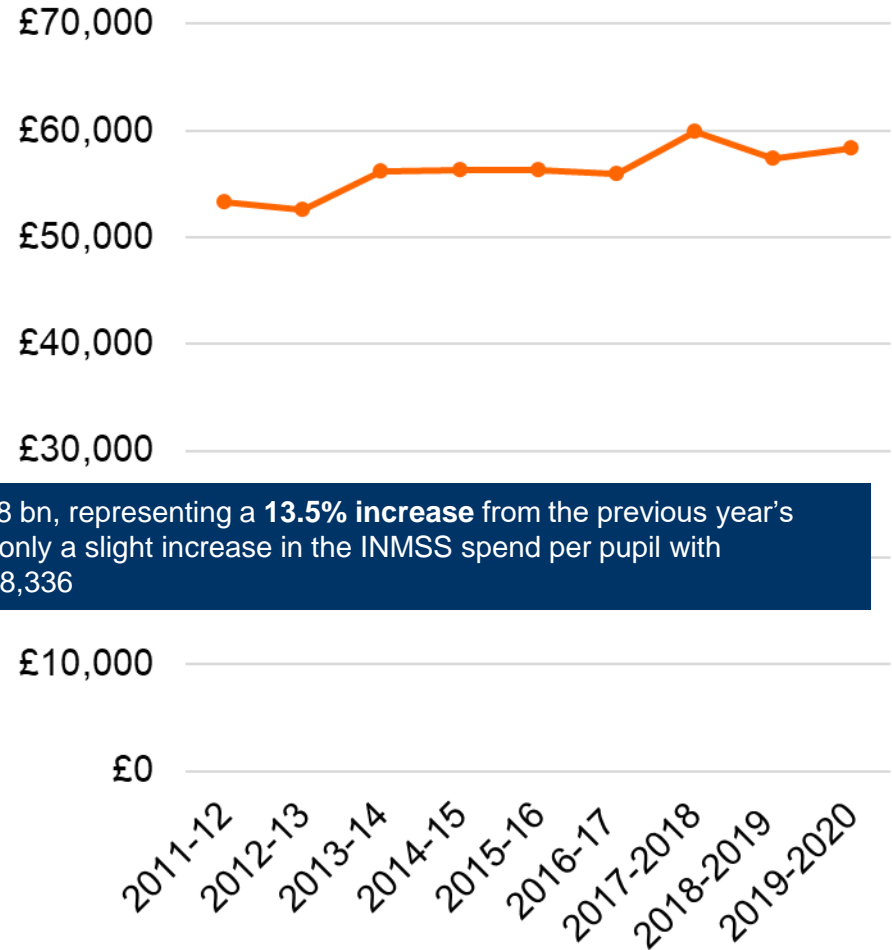


# Spending on INMSS<sup>5</sup> (2011-21)

### Spend on INMSS

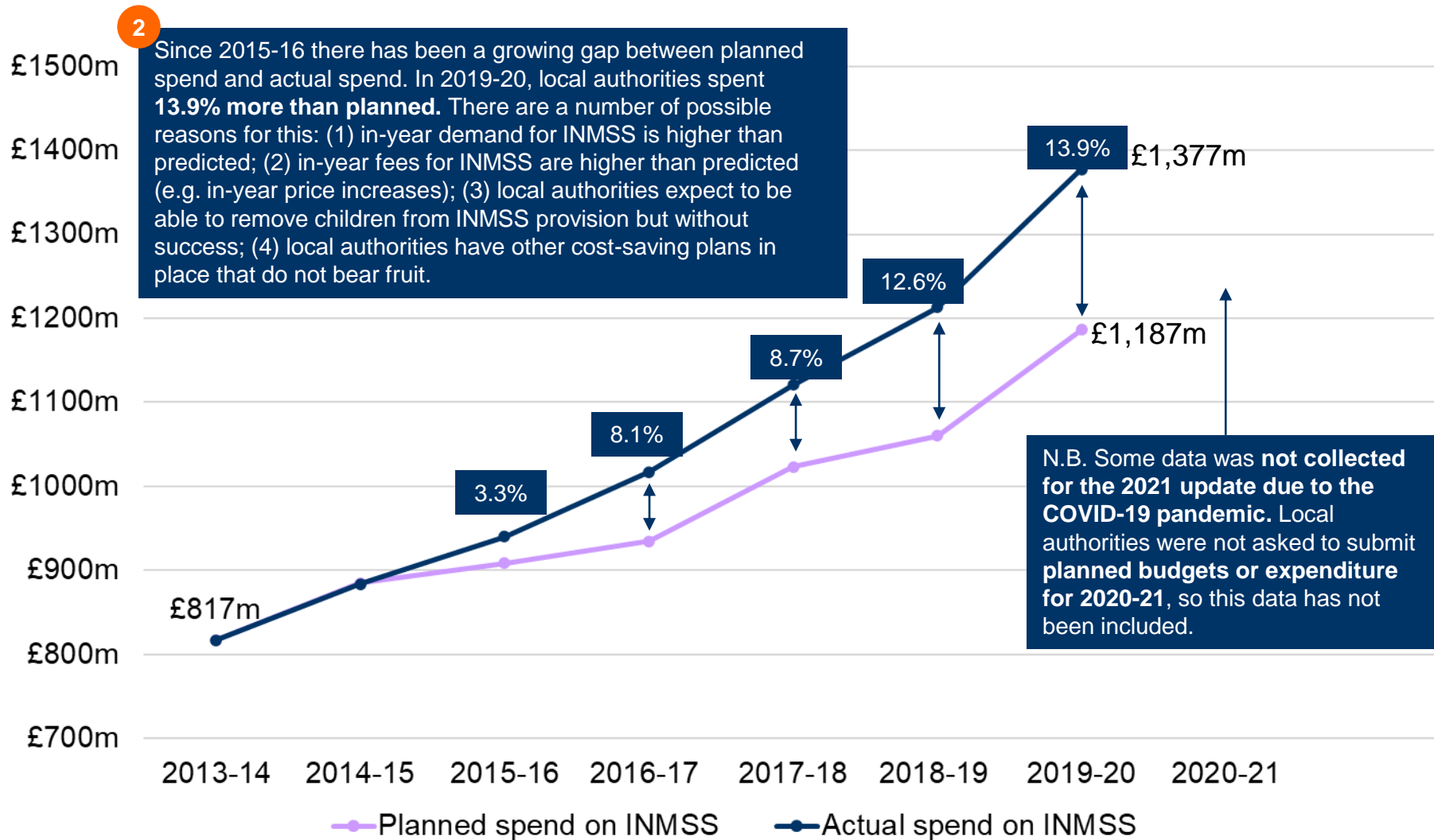


### INMSS spend per pupil with statement / EHC plan in INMSS

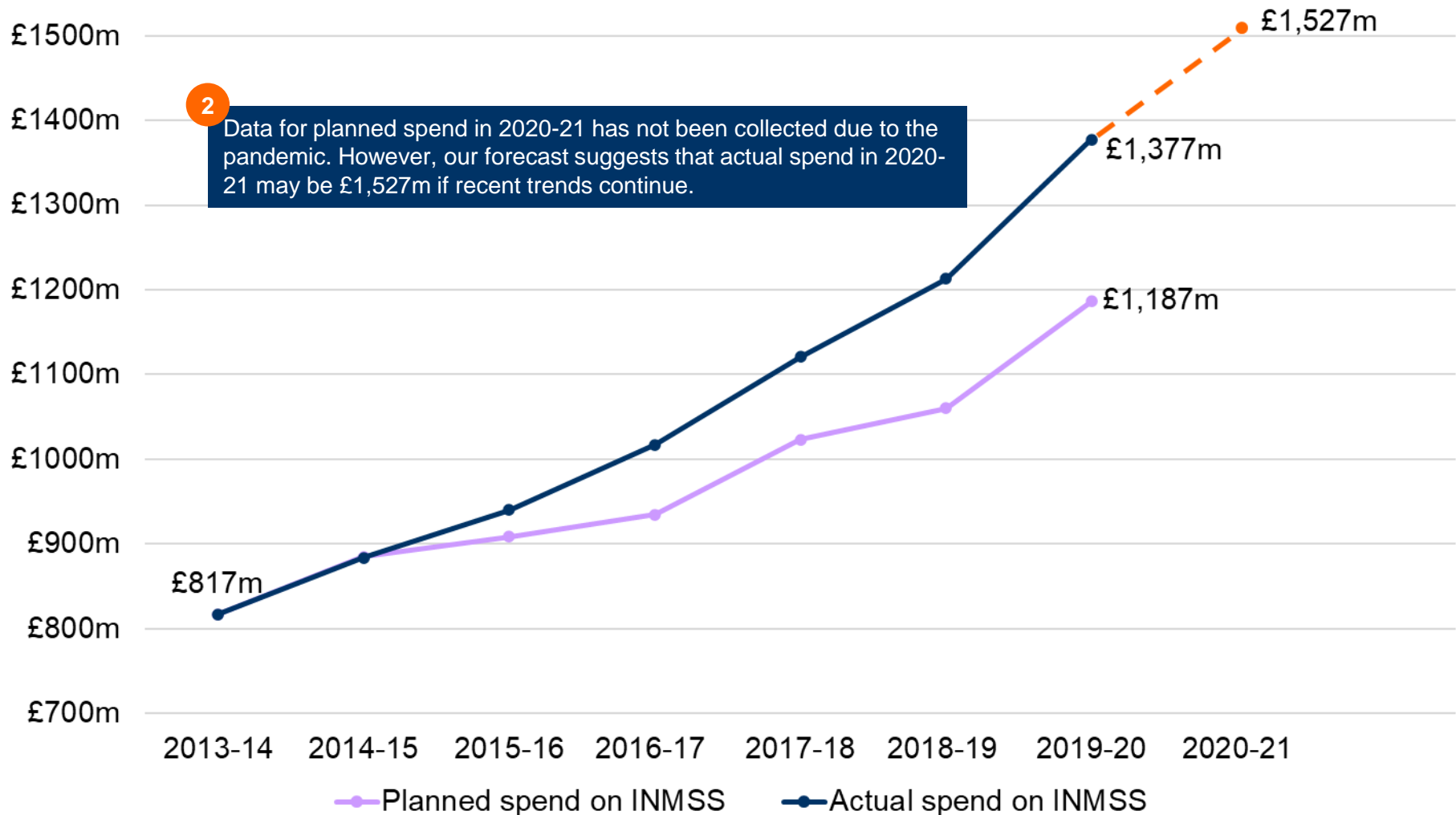


1 Spend on INMSS for 2019-20 is £1.38 bn, representing a **13.5% increase** from the previous year's spend of £1.21bn. 2019-20 data shows only a slight increase in the INMSS spend per pupil with statement/EHC plan from £57,348 to £58,336

# Planned spending on INMSS vs. actual spending on INMSS (2013-21)



# Planned spending on INMSS vs. actual spending on INMSS (2013-21)





# The SEN Stress-Test

**Looking beyond national averages to decipher substantial differences between local authorities**

# Key indicators for the stress-test

## Six key indicators for 2021 & 2016-2021

Percentage of pupils with a statement or EHC plan (2021)

Percentage change in number of pupils with a statement or EHC plan (2016-2021)

Percentage of children and young people with a statement or EHC plan placed in INMSS (2021)

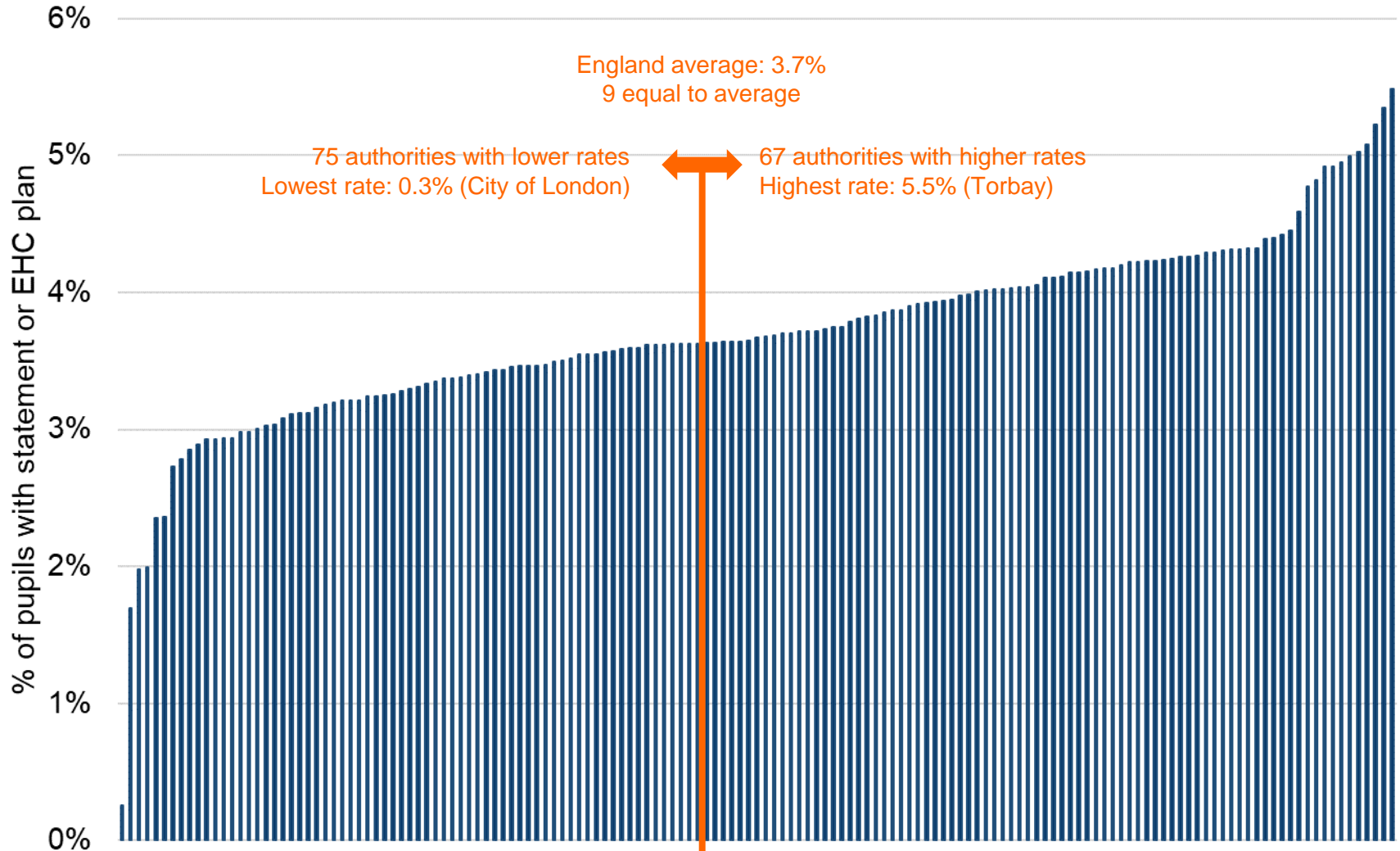
Percentage change in the number of children and young people with a statement or EHC plan placed in INMSS (2016-2021)

Percentage of SEN pupils with a primary diagnosis of ASD (2021)

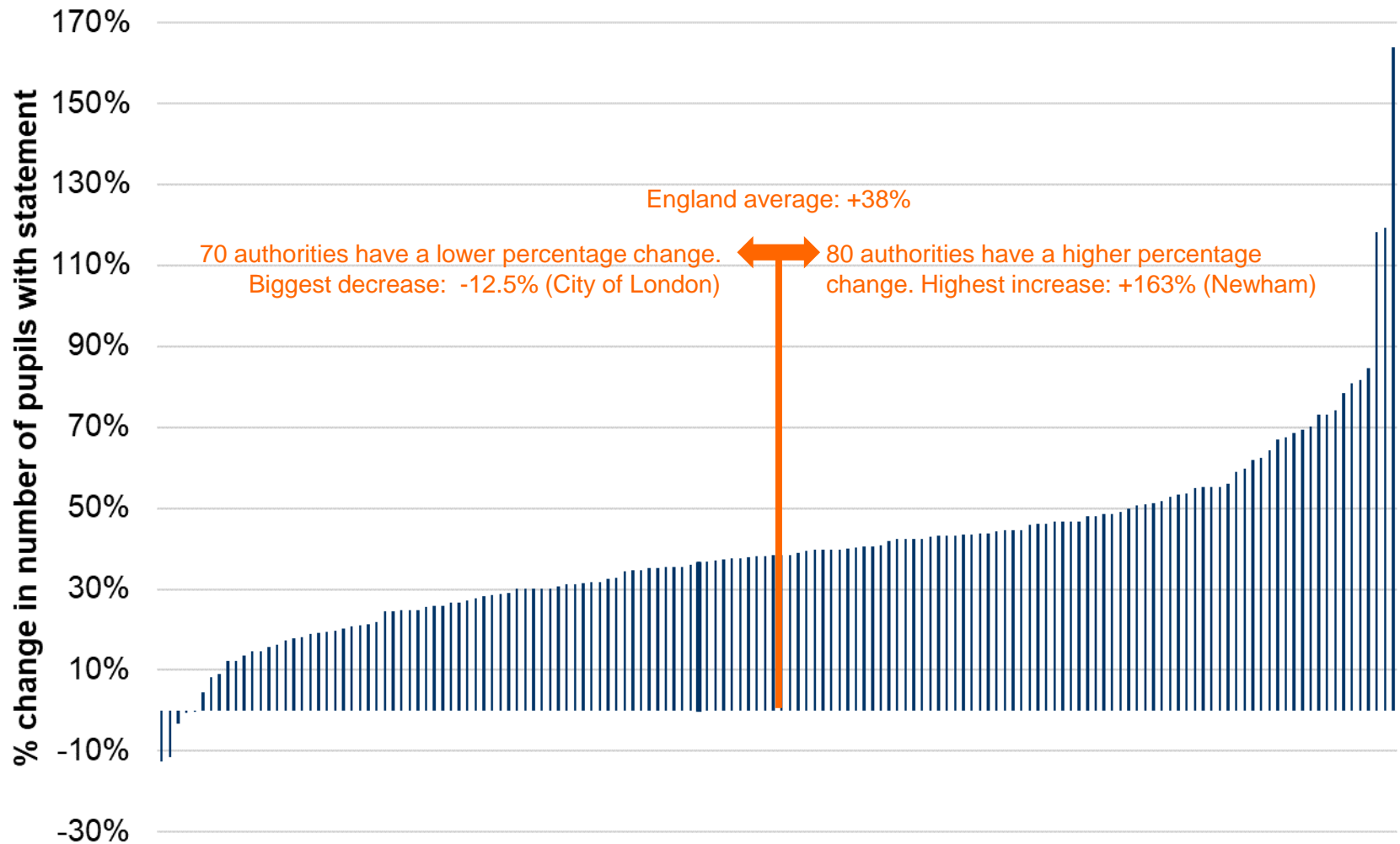
Percentage change in the number of SEN pupils with a primary diagnosis of ASD (2016-2021)

NB: As local authorities were not asked to submit planned expenditure data this year no analysis was conducted on the percentage of total school budget spent on INMSS (planned budget 2021-22), as in previous years. As such, this analysis is based on six indicators rather than seven.

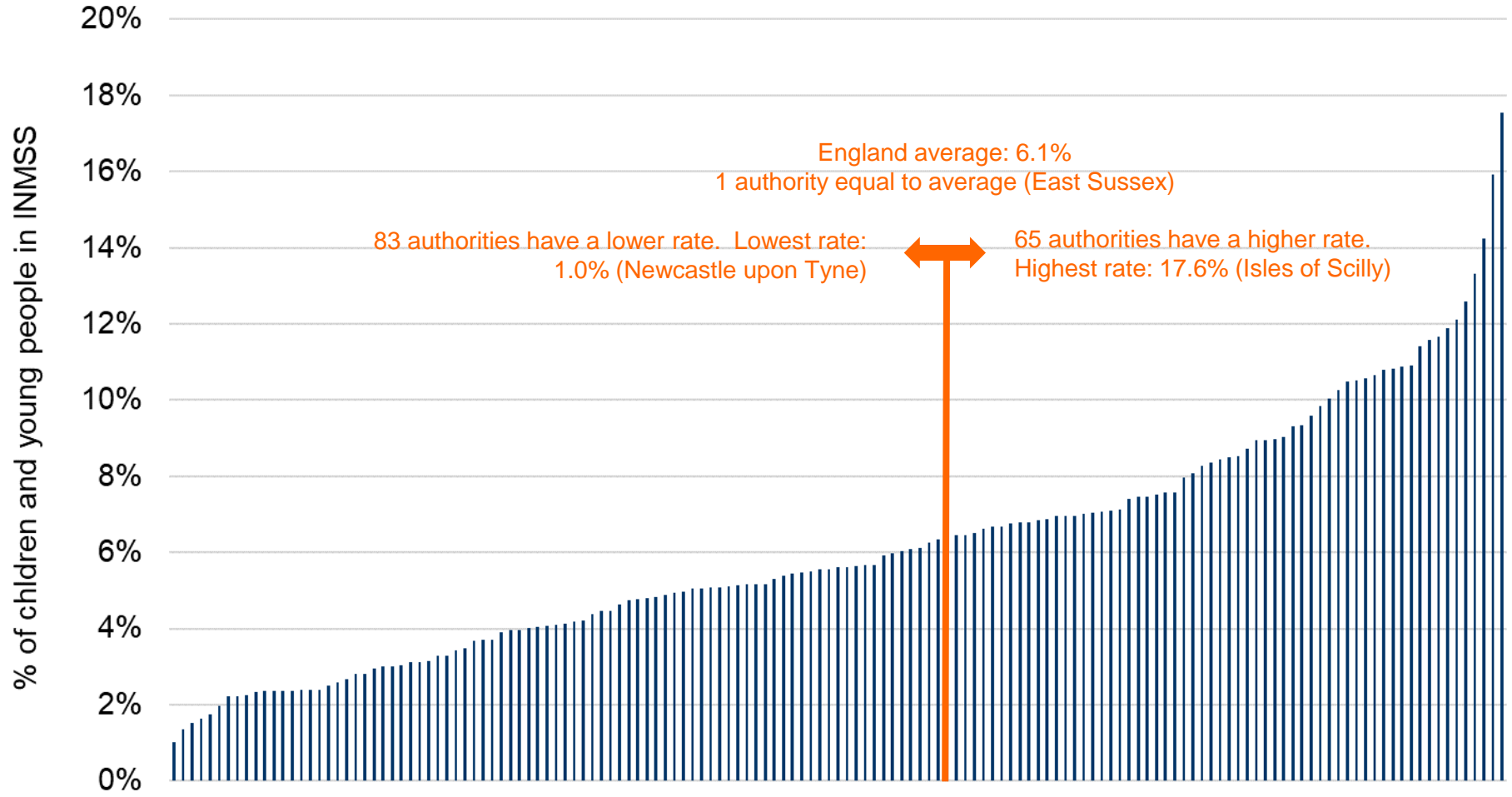
# 1. Percentage of pupils with a statement or EHC plan (2021)



## 2. Percentage change in the number of pupils with a statement or EHC plan (2016-21)

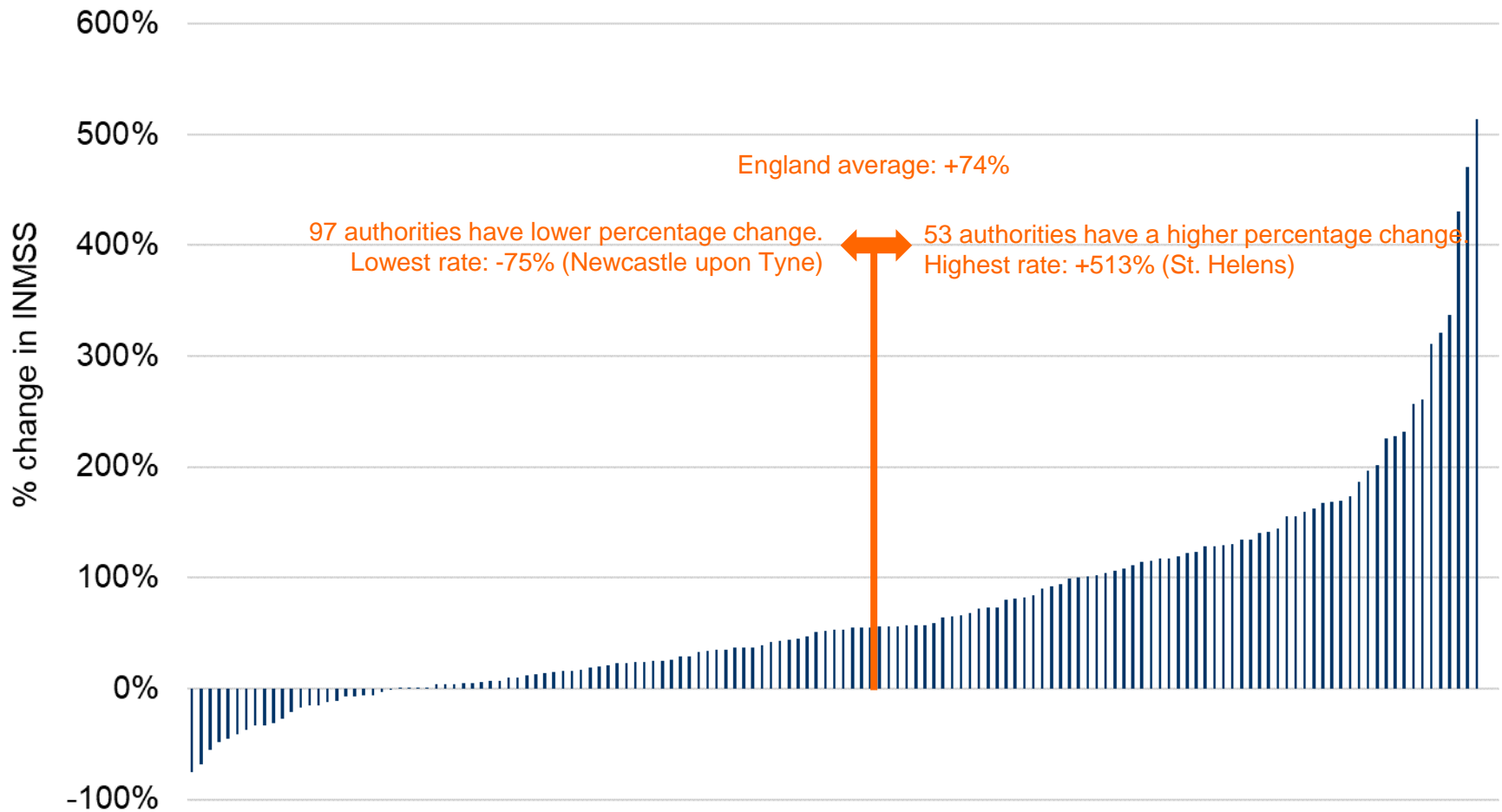


# 3. Percentage of children and young people with a statement or EHC plan in INMSS<sup>5</sup> (2021)



# 4. Percentage change in the number of children and young people with a statement or EHC plan placed in INMSS

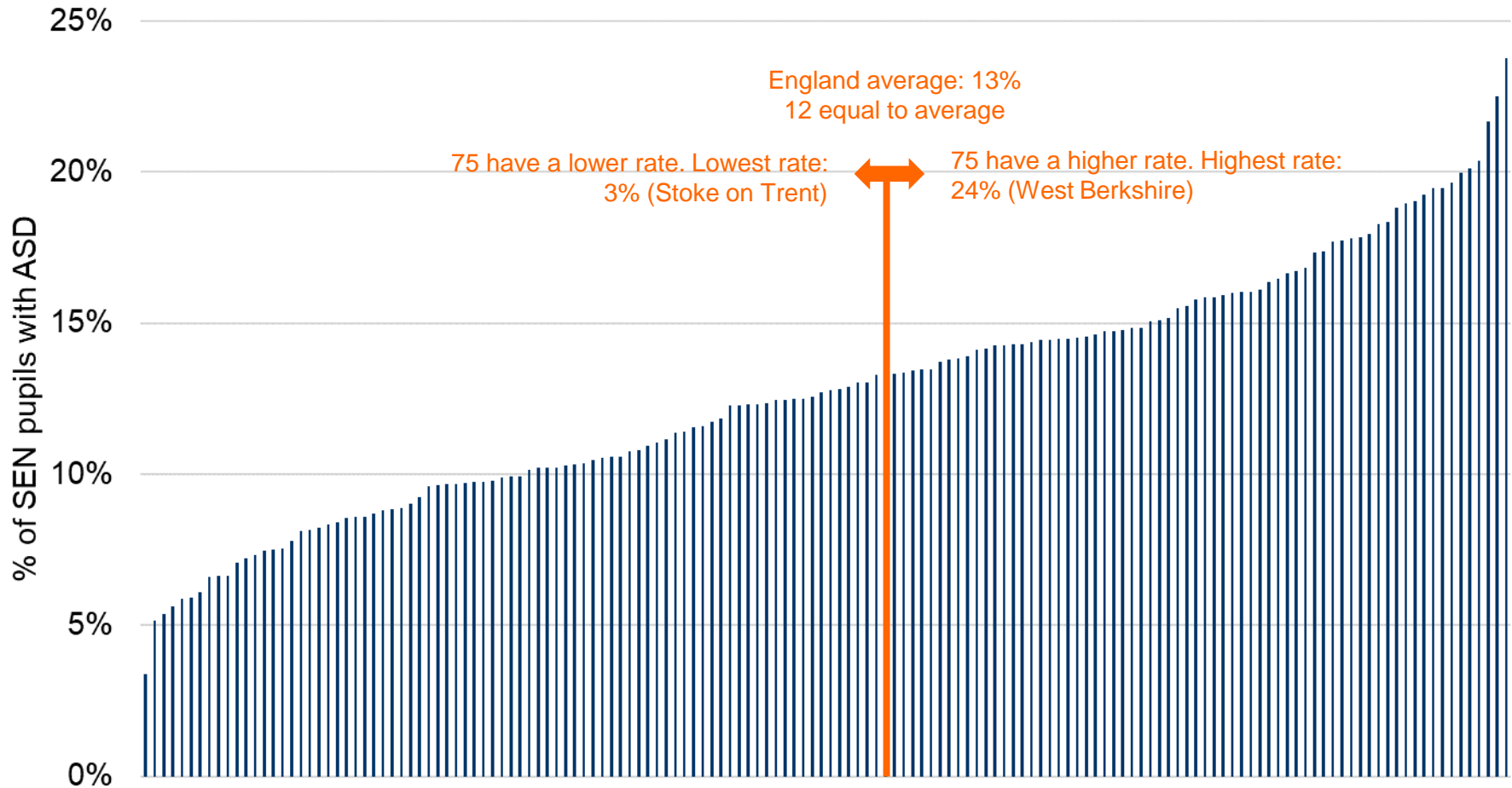
(2016-2021)



# 5. Percentage of SEN pupils with a primary diagnosis of ASD (2021)



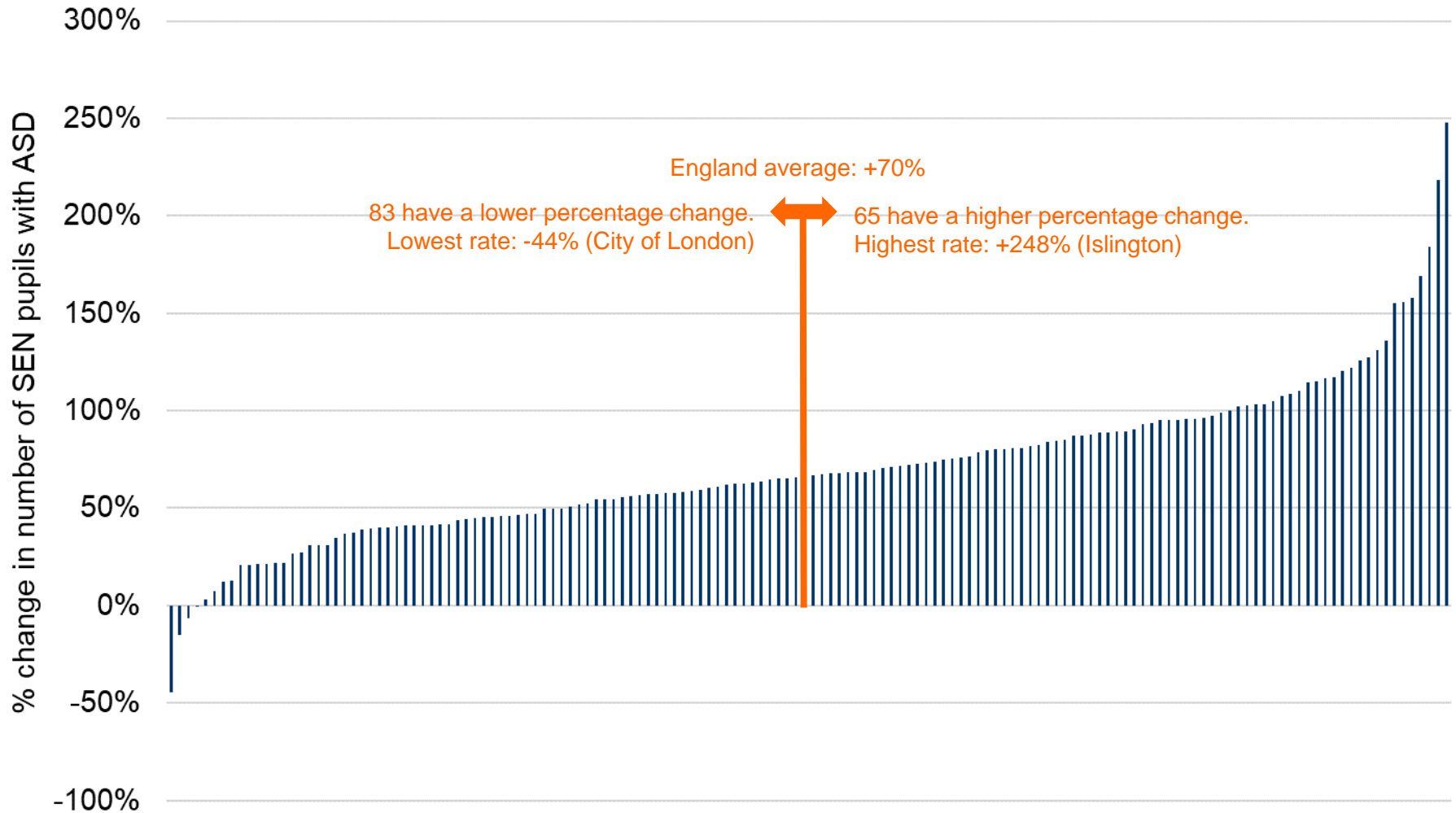
(state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools)



# 6. Percentage change in the number of pupils with a primary diagnosis of ASD (2016-21)



(state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools)



# The 20 “most stressed” local authorities (2021)



	Statement / EHCP		IMNSS		ASD	
	%	% Change	%	% Change	%	% Change
1	Torbay	Newham	Isles of Scilly	St. Helens	W Berkshire	Islington
2	Wandsworth	Tameside	Merton	Dudley	Sunderland	Southampton
3	Tower Hamlets	Somerset	Hackney	Central Bedfordshire	Hillingdon	Brighton and Hove
4	Lambeth	Enfield	City of London	Worcestershire	Solihull	Torbay
5	Isle of Wight	North East Lincolnshire	Bexley	Wakefield	Sheffield	Wolverhampton
6	Islington	Halton	Wiltshire	Hammersmith and Fulham	Hammersmith and Fulham	Salford
7	Devon	Southampton	Medway	Darlington	Sutton	Kensington and Chelsea
8	Knowsley	Rotherham	Lancashire	North East Lincolnshire	Newham	North Tyneside
9	North Tyneside	Oldham	Surrey	Devon	Kent	Leeds
10	Merton	Blackpool	Halton	Halton	Nottingham	North Lincolnshire
11	Hammersmith and Fulham	Cheshire East	St. Helens	Walsall	Nottinghamshire	Hounslow
12	Hackney	Manchester	North East Lincolnshire	Bedford	Kingston upon Thames	Sutton
13	Southampton	Stockton-on-Tees	Richmond upon Thames	Sheffield	Islington	Derby
14	Stockport	Bradford	Lewisham	Rochdale	Kensington and Chelsea	South Tyneside
15	Swindon	Dudley	Kingston upon Thames	Lewisham	Rochdale	Leicester
16	Oldham	Devon	North Lincolnshire	Hartlepool	Liverpool	Newcastle upon Tyne
17	Blackpool	East Riding of Yorkshire	Solihull	Coventry	Bracknell Forest	Wigan
18	Salford	Liverpool	Norfolk	Merton	Southwark	York
19	Lincolnshire	North Somerset	Bracknell Forest	Staffordshire	Windsor and Maidenhead	Newham
20	South Tyneside	St. Helens	Stoke on Trent	Barnsley	Haringey	Buckinghamshire

# Ones to watch in 2021...

Local authority	Number of indicators in which LAs 'most stressed' (2021)
Devon	3
Halton	3
Hammersmith and Fulham	3
Islington	3
Merton	3
Newham	3
North East Lincolnshire	3
Southampton	3
St. Helens	3

NB: Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole were not included across three indicators as data changes meant that it was not possible to compare to previous years' data.

# Ones to watch in recent years...

2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Merton (3)	Merton (4)	Stoke-on Trent (4)	Richmond upon Thames (4)	City of London (4)
North East Lincolnshire (3)	Newham (4)	Barnsley (3)	Stoke on Trent (4)	Merton (3)
Southampton (3)	Blackpool (3)	Blackpool (3)	Hillingdon (4)	Richmond upon Thames (3)
Hammersmith and Fulham (3)	Bracknell Forest (3)	Bracknell Forest (3)	Wokingham (3)	Kingston upon Thames (3)
Islington (3)	Islington (3)	Darlington (3)	Merton (3)	Wokingham (3)
Newham (3)	Kingston upon Thames (3)	Hammersmith & Fulham (3)	Kingston upon Thames (3)	Kensington & Chelsea (3)
Devon (3)	North Tyneside (3)	Kensington & Chelsea (3)	Southampton (3)	Hounslow (3)
Halton (3)	North East Lincolnshire (3)	Kingston upon Thames (3)	Southwark (3)	Hackney (3)
St. Helens (3)	Richmond upon Thames (3)	Lewisham (3)	Lewisham (3)	Hillingdon (3)
	Salford (3)	Merton (3)	Oldham (3)	Tower Hamlets (3)
	Southampton (3)	Richmond-upon-Thames (3)	Barnsley (3)	Southwark (3)
		Salford (3)	Darlington (3)	Bradford (3)
		South Tyneside (3)	Hammersmith & Fulham (3)	

- = on watch list in 2 of last 5 years
- = on watch list in 3 of last 5 years
- = on watch list in 4 of last 5 years
- = on watch list for last 5 years

Please note that as some data was not collected for the 2021 update due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 stress test was based on 6 indicators. Therefore, the number of indicators in 2021 is not directly comparable to the number of indicators in other years.

# References I

**Slide 5 :** <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2021>

**Slide 7:** Number of pupils, by type of SEN provision and establishment type - 2017-2021 at [-https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/education-health-and-care-plans#subjectTabs-createTable](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/education-health-and-care-plans#subjectTabs-createTable)

**Slide 11:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2017>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2018>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2019>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2021>

**Slide 17:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2017>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2018>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2019>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2021>

# References II

## Slide 18

Table 1 in LA and School Expenditure and Planned LA and School Expenditure:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-local-authority-school-finance-data> (requires different spreadsheet for each year)

Table 1 in <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2016>

Table 1 in <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2017>

Table 1 in <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2018>

Table 1 in <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2019>

Table 1 in in <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/planned-la-and-school-expenditure-2018-to-2019-financial-year>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/section-251-2019-to-2020>.

Table 1 in <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2021>

NB. INMSS = Mainstream school: independent school, Special school: non-maintained and Special school: independent special schools.

**Slide 20:** Table 1 in LA and School Expenditure and Planned LA and School Expenditure:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-local-authority-school-finance-data> (requires different spreadsheet for each year)

Table 1 in <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2016>

Table 1 in <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2017>

Table 1 in <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2018>

Table 1 in <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2019>

Table 1 in in <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/planned-la-and-school-expenditure-2018-to-2019-financial-year>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/section-251-2019-to-2020>.

Table 1 in <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2021>

NB. INMSS = Mainstream school: independent school, Special school: non-maintained and Special school: independent special schools. ***Please note that planned spend on INMSS was not collected for 2020-21 due to the pandemic.***

# References III

**Slide 24 and 25:** Type of establishment (SEN\_Phase) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2021> - Based on where the child goes to school.

**Slide 26 and 27:** INMSS = Number of pupils, by type of SEN provision, by type of establishment - 2016-2021 at <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/education-health-and-care-plans#>

**Slide 28 and 29:** Age and gender (2021) – by SEN provision, type of need, and school type: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-England> (Sen\_age\_gender)



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