

The Graduated Approach

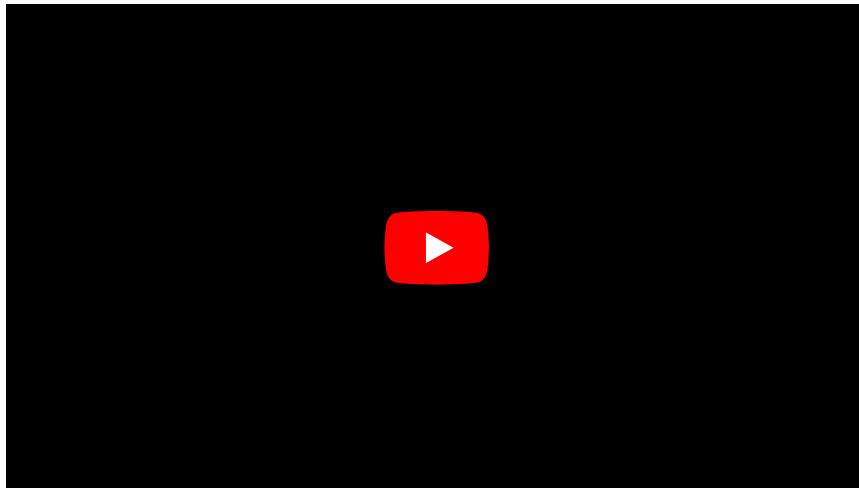
When supporting pupils with SEND to access the curriculum, the Code of Practice recommends adopting a graduated approach to your practice. This approach helps you to find out what strategies will support pupils to access their learning, and crucially, which strategies aren't working for them. It involves working with many different stakeholders such as the pupil themselves, parents or carers, outside agencies and very importantly, the SENCO at your school. The extent to which these stakeholders are involved will depend on the pupils' needs. The graduated approach can be used to support any pupil who requires more personalised adaptations in order to access learning; they do not have to be diagnosed with SEN.

The graduated approach consists of four stages: assess, plan, do, review. It is designed to put the pupil at the centre, and each stage supports the teacher to make adaptations to their learning environment or practice to better support the individual pupil.

The cycle is continuous and can span a short period of time, (around 2 weeks) or can be used over a longer period (over a half-term or longer). As such, it enables the teacher to be responsive to what is working well, and to stop actions that aren't having the desired impact.



Each stage of the approach is outlined in the Code of Practice. However, listen again to Laura Dobson as she explains each step of the approach with some tangible examples. You can make notes using the [notes tab](#) (or your own notebook).



Direct Link: [The Graduated Approach - Laura Dobson, Driver Youth Trust](#)

Transcript: [The Graduated Approach - Laura Dobson, Driver Youth Trust](#) is link opens in a new window/tab)

When supporting pupils with additional learning needs, it's important that you don't feel alone. You have the right to support from other staff in your school such as your SENCO and/or members of the senior leadership team. As indicated in the EEF's guidance report (2020), support is most effective when a holistic approach is taken to assess, plan, do and review. [\(this link opens in a new window/tab\)](#)