

What Happens at a SEND Tribunal Hearing

Appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability)



1. *Before the Hearing*

You submit your evidence bundle

The local authority submits theirs

You may receive case directions from the tribunal

Sometimes there is a case management hearing



2. *The Day of the Tribunal*

Hearings may be online (video) or in person

You join the hearing and meet the tribunal panel

The panel usually includes:

A judge

An education specialist

Sometimes a disability specialist



3. **Introductions**

The judge explains the process

Everyone introduces themselves

The judge confirms what parts of the appeal are being considered (for example: needs, provision, or placement)



4. *Questions from the Tribunal Panel*

The panel will ask questions to understand:

Your child's needs

Whether the EHCP describes those needs properly

Whether the support (provision) is enough

Whether the school placement is suitable



5. *Questions to Professionals*

The panel may ask questions to:

Local authority representatives

School staff

Educational psychologists or therapists



6. *Parent Carer Input*

You will have time to explain:

Your child's daily experiences

What support is missing

What provision your child needs

Your real-life examples are very important.



7. Final Comments

The judge may ask if anyone wants to add anything important before closing.



8. Tribunal Ends



9. Written Decision

The tribunal normally sends the written decision within around 10–14 days.

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