

What is the Valuing SEND tool?

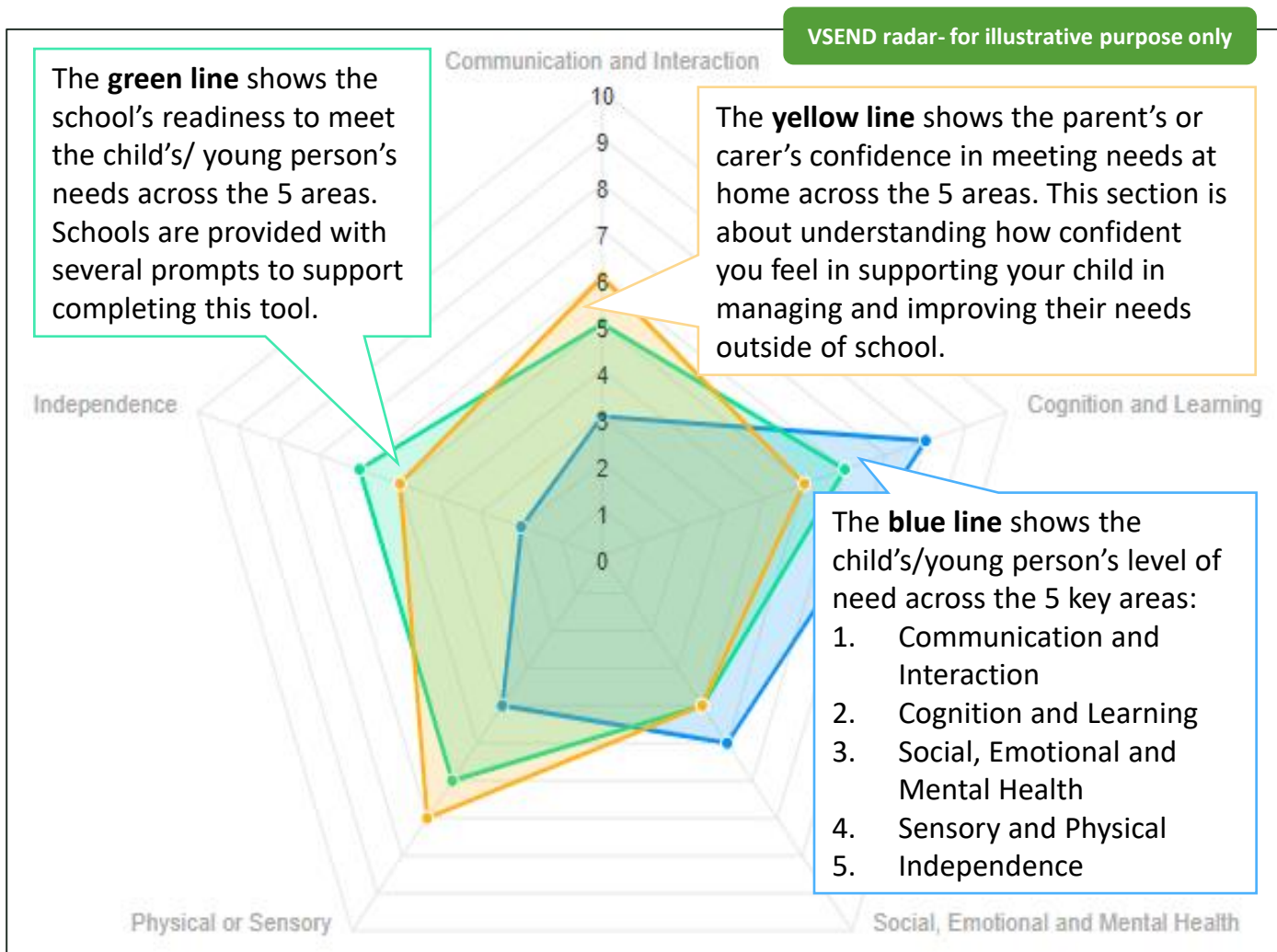
The Valuing SEND tool is being piloted in Hertfordshire to improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It does this by helping you and your child's nursery, school or college to work together to understand their needs and to support and promote inclusion in their school.

Your child's/young person's SENCo will usually take the lead in completing this tool. However, you should always be involved in this process. This makes sure that your views are captured and you understand how they are supporting your child/young person.

The tool includes a series of helpful prompts and questions to:

- Understand your child's/ young person's needs across five key areas
- Understand how well the school is in supporting your child's/ young person's needs
- Understand how confident you feel in supporting your child's/young person's needs at home

Once the tool is completed, it creates a simple diagram like the one below, showing where your child's/ young person's needs are being met and where additional support could be provided.



How to use the tool

The tool asks you to score your confidence between **10** (you feel confident to support your child’s needs) or **0** (no confidence at all in supporting your child’s needs).

There is no right or wrong answer when it comes to your rating, it is based solely on how confident you feel. It is important to be honest in your confidence rating as this can ensure the right type of support is provided to both you and your child to ensure their needs are met and they achieve their aspirations.



Needs	What does this mean?	What should I think about when scoring? Ask myself – am I comfortable in supporting these needs?
Communication & Interaction	Any difficulty your child may have in talking, expressing themselves, understanding others and interacting with others.	Do you change the way you talk, give your child extra time to think and respond, ask your child questions about activities you have done, use any different communication styles?
Cognition & Learning	Any difficulty your child may have in learning, following instructions and remembering things they have been told.	Do you support your child with homework, play games with them to increase their understanding of words and numbers, do you help them plan their day?
Social, Emotional & Mental Health	Any difficulty your child may have with their mental health, coping with change, forming friendships, behaviour and attending school.	Do you have conversations about feelings, talk about your day including things that did not go well, help them have positive routines before and after school?
Physical or Sensory	Any difficulty your child may have from a physical disability, sight or hearing loss and challenges around being in environments they find difficult due to noise, light or smells.	Do you support your child with any equipment they may need, in following activities from other professionals, through using different communication techniques?
Independence	This is focused on Preparing your child for the future and thinking about how they could cope with moving on in education, accessing the local area, building relationships, understanding food & money and talking about their health and wellbeing.	Do you support your child to build their understanding of these areas, cook with them, talk to them about money, take them on public transport, enable them to challenge themselves with activities? How do you build their independence?