

IDS – Teaching and Learning: Physical Disability Service

Aims

The Physical Disability team of teachers supports Warwickshire's mainstream schools in making provision for pupils with physical disabilities.

Staff

We have one full time and two part-time teachers in our peripatetic team.

Referrals

We accept referrals directly from schools. We acknowledge receipt of referrals within 3 days and aim to make a first visit within one month.

Assessment

We talk to school staff who know the pupil and gather the views of the EP and all professionals from Health and Social Services who may be involved. We listen carefully to the views of the pupil and involve them in making decisions about their needs. We consult school medical officers and health professionals for diagnostic assessment information together with advice on the educational implications of disabilities. This usually involves liaison with staff working in Child Development Centres. We undertake informal observations both at home and at school and gain information and advice from parents. Pupils will receive an ICT assessment if required. We provide or arrange health and safety risk assessments as necessary. Assessment reports are provided for schools and parents and discussed with pupils whenever possible.

IEP recommendations

We advise on effective differentiation strategies to ensure the greatest possible access, mobility, achievement, independence and social inclusion for the pupil. We advise on a range of teaching strategies to enable access to the curriculum. This includes the effective use of ICT. We promote the need for appropriate adaptations to and management of the classroom and the wider school environment to take account of the needs of the referred pupil. We advise on the effective use of specialist equipment and clarify the educational implications of medical advice.

Reviews

We give priority to attending reviews where pupils give particular cause for concern or prior to any change of school. We attend annual reviews for pupils with statements relating to physical disabilities both in Warwickshire and out of county.

Records

We maintain a confidential file for each pupil with whom we work. This contains referral and assessment information, IEPs, review notes and minutes, professional reports, correspondence, visit reports and records of pupil progress.

Curriculum resources and specialist equipment

We provide training for school staff and parents in the safe and effective use of specialist equipment. We maintain and manage the LEA loan stock of specialist equipment for pupils with physical disability. This equipment is provided through the Schools Access Fund which is used for expensive capital expenditure which could not reasonably be purchased through school delegated budgets. The loan stock remains the property of the County Council and may be reclaimed for use by the other Warwickshire pupils when it is no longer required. We issue a loan agreement to clarify the respective responsibilities of the school and the service.

Partnership with parents

We meet parents (in school and occasionally at home) and provide a telephone number for future contact. Service information is provided for all parents. We welcome the full involvement of parents in assessment, IEP planning and the use of specialist equipment. We provide information about local and national associations and the Warwickshire Parent Partnership Scheme.

Professional Development

We organise school awareness and training in a way which is sensitive to the needs and wishes of each pupil. We train teachers, teaching assistants and parents to develop and use the specific skills, including ICT, which may be necessary for the education of children with physical disability. We advertise safe "handling" courses in the Warwickshire Educational Development Service programme.

Warwickshire and Regional Networks

We try to work co-operatively with all the services and agencies involved with pupils with Physical disability. This includes Social Care and the full range of Health staff who work in paediatric services. We liaise with other SEN support services for pupils with physical disability. Staff attend local, regional and national conferences and co-operate with voluntary associations whenever possible.