Parent Partnership Service
A service for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs

Confidential Advice Line Link (CALL)
Phone: 01223 699214
10am – 12noon and 2pm – 4pm
Monday to Friday, Term Time only
E-mail: pps@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Newsletters, Training and Website
Phone: 01223 699211
E-mail: ppsadmin@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
PPS Website
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/pps

We provide an answerphone if a member of staff is not available to take your call.

Please ask us for copies of this leaflet in Braille, on audio cassette or in a different language.

Prosimy pytać u nas o kopie niniejszej ulotki w języku Braille’a, w wersji audio lub w innym języku.

Prašome mūsų teirautis šio informacino lapelio kopijų Brailio raštu, garsajuostėje ar kita kalba.

Caso necesite, peça-nos cópias deste folheto em Braille, cassette áudio ou numa língua diferente.

希朧行政部門提供這本小冊的盲文版本或外文翻譯版。

請向我們索取本小冊的其他版本，包括盲文、录音带或另一种语言的译本。
Disability discrimination is just one of the types of discrimination covered by the Equality Act 2010. It affects

- the local authority
- all education providers i.e. all schools (including independent and non-maintained special schools) and all pre schools (nurseries, play schools etc.).

A person is disabled if ‘he or she has a physical or mental impairment and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.’

Schools and local authorities must not treat disabled pupils less favourably, unless it is justified, and must make reasonable adjustments to ensure disabled pupils are not disadvantaged compared to their peers. Instead they should plan to ensure that disabled pupils have better access to schools and the curriculum. Schools must have an accessibility plan and local authorities an accessibility strategy showing how they will do this.

Schools and local authorities are required, called a general equality duty, to

- promote equality of opportunity between disabled and non disabled pupils;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination
- eliminate harassment of disabled pupils that relates to their disability e.g. bullying;
- promote positive attitudes towards disabled pupils;
- encourage the participation of disabled pupils; and
- take steps to meet disabled pupils needs even if this requires more favourable treatment.

Schools should have published by 31 December 2011 sufficient information to show how they have complied with the general equality duty across all their work, and at least annually after that, from the first date of publication.

Schools and local authorities also have an additional requirement, called a specific duty, to

- prepare and publish equality objectives
- involve disabled pupils and their parents in the development of the objectives that relate to them.

The purpose of the objectives is to show how the school and the local authority will meet one or more aims of the general equality duty. If the objective involves disability schools and local authorities must

- involve disabled people (pupils, parents and staff) in their preparation
- set out in the objectives how disabled people have been involved

in their preparation and how they will be involved in their evaluation
- show the educational opportunities available to disabled pupils
- show the achievements of disabled pupils
- implement the objectives within four years
- every four years
  - review and revise the objectives
  - publish details of the progress made in meeting the objectives.

Schools should have consulted on and published their objectives by 6 April 2012.

The Governors’ Annual Report must include information on the schools accessibility plan and the general equality duty.

If you think your child has been discriminated against you should try to resolve this with the school. If you are unable to reach agreement you can contact the local authority or appeal to the First-Tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability). The Parent Partnership Service can advise and support you in this.

For further information on Disability Discrimination see www.equalityhumanrights.com or phone 0845 604 6610.

For further information about the tribunal see www.sendist.gov.uk or phone 01325 392760.