



Inclusion

All children should be able to be with their friends and peer group whether that is at school or socially. There shouldn't be barriers or obstacles preventing children from being where they want to be with whom they want to be with. We are all different, with different needs and different strengths and weaknesses.

Inclusive education is the description used for educating a child in the setting which they would have been in if they did not have a disability or a learning difficulty. It means focusing on providing for an individual's needs within their chosen setting rather than putting the child into the setting which can provide for children with the same or similar difficulties. All children, regardless of their needs, should have access to equal opportunities and experiences. Including children with a disability or learning difficulty in mainstream education will allow them to be included in the same groups and have the same opportunities as everyone else.

By providing the right support, children with special educational needs (SEN) do not have to be segregated, restricted or limited in any way. Inclusive education reduces fear and increases tolerance, research has shown that there are positive changes in children with SEN receiving inclusive education, particularly in the area of social and communication skills. Instead of your child going to see specialists who can help them, the specialists will come to your child and will talk to their school teachers offering advice and guidance.

All schools provide a range of different teaching methods and resources within an inclusive curriculum to meet the broad range of needs of the children we have in Darlington. The school years of your child's life prepares them for the rest of their adult life - socialising, travelling, taking part in activities and gaining useful employment. By overcoming barriers early in life this will prepare them to continue to achieve and have the confidence to reach their true potential.

"Inclusion is about much more than the type of school that children attend. It is about the quality of their experience; how they are helped to learn, achieve and participate fully in the life of the school." *Removing Barriers to Achievement (The Government's Strategy for SEN 2004)*

There will be a small number of pupils for whom inclusive education may not be suitable for, the importance is to look at every pupil as an individual and to meet their needs.

For further information on the way in which Darlington LA is moving towards inclusive education you may wish to read the 'Charter for Inclusion'. There is also a publication which is produced by the DFE called 'Inclusive Schooling' and the National Curriculum Inclusion Statement: providing effective learning opportunities for all pupils. These publications are available from the DFE Publications department on 0845 6022260.

Darlington SEND Information, Advice and Support Service is based at:
13 Horsemarket
Darlington
DL1 5PW

Telephone: 01325 405878
Email: iass@darlington.gov.uk
Website: www.darlington.gov.uk/iass

The SEND Adviser (IASS) is Lorraine Holden.

Darlington Special Educational Needs Team is based at:
Town Hall
Darlington
DL1 5QT

Telephone: 01325 505891

The Special Educational Needs Team are Elaine Allison, Jacqui Robinson, Linda Peacock and Sarah Booth.

Other useful factsheets:

1. *Inclusion*
2. **Organising your Paperwork**
3. **Choosing a School**
4. **Primary to Secondary Transitions**
5. **Exclusions**

Alternative sources of information:

Department for Education
Website: www.education.gov.uk

Independent Parental Special Education Advice (IPSEA)
Advice Line : 0800 018 4016
Website: www.ipsea.org.uk