

Sunderland Special Education Needs Information, Advice and Support Service

Impartiality Policy

The role of the Sunderland Information, Advice and Support Service is to ensure parents have access to confidential and impartial information, advice and support so they can make informed decisions about their child's special educational needs. This is achieved by working in partnership with parents, providing information, services and training, working with relevant agencies and ensuring parents' views influence local policy and practice.

The service is impartial of everyone – Local Authorities, schools, education ideologies, and campaigns.

How we are impartial

- ❖ Sunderland Information, Advice and Support Service does not stand to gain or lose whatever the outcomes of any discussions may be;
- ❖ We reflect the wishes and views of the parents
- ❖ We provide factual information and advice based on current Special Educational Needs guidance and legislation
- ❖ We try to provide parents with enough information so they can make their own decisions; not tell them what to do.
- ❖ We do not prioritise any impairment, disability or special educational need over another.
- ❖ We do not promote any educational philosophy or method over another.

How we will do this

- ❖ Parents will be informed of the impartial nature of the service when they make initial contact
- ❖ Parents will be informed that the role of the service is to help them participate in their child's education and advise them of their rights. It is neither to act as an advocate on their behalf nor to take sides with the local authority.
- ❖ Parents' views will be respected and reflected by the service.
- ❖ Information and advice will be in line with national legislation and guidance. This will not necessarily reflect local policy
- ❖ We will facilitate contact between parents/ carers and relevant networks and organisations.
- ❖ Sunderland Information, Advice and Support Service will not undertake any function on behalf of the local authority, any educational establishment or any other agency.
- ❖ The parent partnership service will not share Information about children or families with the local authority, any educational establishment or any other agency without express permission from the parents.
- ❖ The only exceptions to this policy will be if we believe that there are safeguarding concerns.

How impartiality is ensured

- ❖ All Sunderland Information, Advice and Support Service staff will receive a copy of this policy
- ❖ This policy is published and shared with other Local authority services and other relevant agencies.
- ❖ The policy is reviewed annually and amended as required.

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