

Parent/Carer Questionnaire: Explanatory notes

Introduction

1.1 These notes and associated parent questionnaire are intended to help schools identify and respond to the needs of their disabled pupils.

1.2 The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA) is now incorporated into the Single Equality Act (2010) and together they require schools to:

- Promote equality of opportunity;
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people;
- Assess and monitor the impact of their activities on disabled people;
- Make reasonable adjustments to ensure disabled children are not disadvantaged;
- Improve outcomes for disabled people.

1.3 Schools in England are currently required to collect data on children with Special Educational Need (SEN), but this does not capture information about all disabled children and to date there has been no consistent way of identifying and categorising disabilities. Collecting this information should help policy and practice to respond to the needs of disabled children and their families in line with the Disability Equality Duty (DED) and Single Equality Schemes.

1.4 It is not always easy to know whether a child is disabled. Difficulties can vary over time and may depend in part on the specific environment or activities undertaken. The subjective experience of a disability can only be fully understood by asking parents and children themselves. This questionnaire was produced to help schools consult with parents, providing a useful *starting point* for follow up conversations with parents who indicate that their child is disabled. There are also a set of related 'flexible tools' that schools can use directly with children and young people to find out how they experience and understand difficulties themselves.

Making Schools Better Places for Learning

We are committed to making sure that school is a happy and successful experience for all of our children and young people. Where a child has a particular difficulty or need, we will do our best to put measures in place to overcome this. It would therefore be helpful if you could complete this questionnaire, whether or not your child has any difficulties. Please complete one form for each of your children at this school.

We will treat what you have told us here sensitively. None of the information will be shared with other parents or pupils. The back page of this questionnaire provides more information about who this information will be shared with. If you need help to fill in this questionnaire please let us know.

Child's First Name

Child's Surname / Family Name

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy)/...../..... ..

Gender (please circle): Boy Girl

1. Please indicate whether your child has any long-standing illnesses, health problems or disabilities which mean that they have substantial difficulties with any of the areas of his/her life shown below? Please select all that apply.

By long-standing we mean anything that has troubled them over a period of at least 12 months or that is likely to affect them over at least 12 months. Please exclude difficulties that you would expect for a child of that age

Mobility – moving around indoors or outdoors	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hand movements – touching or holding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal care – going to the toilet, dressing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eating and drinking without help	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incontinence – wetting or dirtying	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taking medication	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication - speaking with others, or understanding them	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning – numbers, letters, words	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Behaviour – very active, has a short attention span, behaves unacceptably	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has fits or seizures	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diagnosed with autism or Asperger Syndrome	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a life-limiting condition or requires palliative care	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can be depressed, or anxious, or has an eating disorder	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please describe other areas of great difficulty)	

2. Does your child take any medication, use any physical aids or require any special diet or supplements?

Yes

No

3. If your child did not take this medication, use this physical aid or have a special diet or supplements, would he/she have substantial difficulties with any of the areas of life listed above?

Yes

No

4. Has your child seen a professional, such as a paediatrician or a psychologist or a speech and language therapist because of the difficulty?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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If YES, please provide further details:

5. If you have indicated above that your child has difficulties, do these difficulties affect his or her:	Yes	Sometim es	No	Don't know
Classroom learning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interaction with his or her classmates / peers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joining in other school activities e.g. breaks, social and leisure activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attendance at school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Day to day life outside of school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. What sort of help or special equipment do you think your child needs so that they get on well at school?

We would be pleased to meet with you to talk about your child's need. Please tick if you would like us to arrange this.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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What Happens To The Information You Give Us?

We really appreciate your help with this questionnaire. The information will be used by the school to improve the way that information on pupils' difficulties and disabilities is collected and used in schools to promote the wellbeing of children. No information will be published that would identify your child. By returning this form you are agreeing that information can be used in this way. The covering letter shows the person in the school who will open the envelope and see this information. Information will be shared with those staff in the school who support your child unless you ask us not to below.

Is there any person in the school who you would not like to share this information with?
Please name them:

☺Thank you for completing this form. Please return it in the envelope provided☺