

Admission of pupils with complex medical needs or disabilities to independent boarding schools

- Schools should have a considered policy for admission of pupils with complex medical needs or disabilities.
- This policy should be available to potential pupils and their parents to encourage disclosure of medical information on application.
- On application to school any special medical or physical needs disclosed should immediately be brought to the attention of the School Medical Officer.
- Parents should be made aware that if due to non-disclosure of information adjustments cannot be made in a planned, proactive manner there is a risk that the school will not be able to accommodate their child safely.
- If appropriate the parents should meet with the School Medical Officer and a school representative(s) to consider the needs of the pupil and the expectations of the pupil and their parents. This should take place before the pupil is accepted.
- If necessary a risk assessment should be performed by an appropriate professional. This should be a process which is reviewed at least annually.
- Following the meeting and assessment the school should then decide if any reasonable adjustments need to be made to safely accommodate the pupil within the school.

Useful links:

Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/20010010.htm>

Disability Discrimination Act 1995

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/1995050.htm>

www.teachernet.gov.uk

www.scope.org.uk

Many useful factsheets for teachers and others involved in education.

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