

# Preparing for School

Starting a new school year can be daunting at any time for a child or young person. This could be at a new key stage, school or setting. It's important to allow time during the summer break to discuss with your child what they are likely to expect in their next school year. As well as you as parents / carers to understand what to expect and where to go if there are any issues.

## Starting School: Advice for Parents with Summer Born Children

If you are considering delaying your (summer born) child's admission to school and are seeking information to decide what would be best for their child. There is guidance available to support this, it also provides information about the options available, and about how to arrange delayed admission. This can be found [here](#).

## Schools' duty based on Legislation and Statutory Guidance

Schools and education authorities have had a duty to provide reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils since 2002: originally, under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (the DDA 1995); and, from October 2010, under the Equality Act (EqA) 2010.

The duty to make reasonable adjustments requires a school to take positive steps to ensure that disabled pupils can fully participate in the education provided by the school, and that they can enjoy the other. benefits, facilities and services that the school provides for pupils. Further information about reasonable adjustments can be found [here](#).

Mainstream schools and maintained nursery schools must ensure that children with SEN “engage in the activities of the school together with children who do not have special educational needs” provided that this is reasonably practicable, does not prevent them from receiving the support they need, and does not prevent the efficient education of the other children and the efficient use of resources (Children and Families Act 2014, section 35). The reason for a child's exclusion from activities must therefore fall within these conditions.

The EqA 2010 should also be useful if a disabled child or young person is being excluded from activities. The EqA 2010 duties to make reasonable adjustments for children and young people with disabilities are anticipatory duties – schools and colleges must take reasonable steps to ensure children and young people with disabilities can be included when they are planning activities.

All schools and academies are required to identify and address the special educational needs of the pupils that they support. This is clearly outlined in the Statutory Guidance – SEND Code of Practice. This can be found [here](#). Further information about SEN support in schools can be found [here](#).

Children's rights under The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child can be found [here](#).

## School SEND Policy

The school/setting your child is in or going to will have an area within their website for their policies. This should include their inclusion and/or SEND policy, depending on what the school call it. They may also have a recent SEND report and accessibility documents. In preparation for the next school year looking through these documents will allow you to understand on a more day to day basis what SEND support and provision will look like ahead of the new school year.

