

## DISABILITY

A person has a disability if he or she has a mental or physical impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This covers physical difficulties, sensory impairments and learning disabilities. Not all pupils with a disability will have *Special Educational Needs* e.g. those with severe asthma, arthritis or diabetes.

Under the Disability Discrimination Act it is unlawful for schools to discriminate against disabled pupils, either current or prospective, for a reason related to their disability. Parents of disabled pupils who believe that discrimination has taken place may take action through the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDA). In the first instance parents may wish to seek advice from the Special Education and Transport Section or **Wirral SEN Parent Partnership**.

Wirral Authority has an **Accessibility Strategy** which describes how we will help schools become more accessible to children with disabilities and every school has its own Accessibility Plan.

We have a policy on the **Education of Children with Physical and Medical Needs**. Eight primary schools and three secondary schools are additionally resourced to meet the needs of pupils with physical difficulties. One primary and three secondary schools are additionally resourced to meet the needs of pupils with Visual Difficulties and one primary school provides specialist support for pupils with Hearing Difficulties. The **Special Education Support Service** also *provides* specialist teacher advice and support for pupils with sensory impairment. The Service also has a co-ordinator for children with physical and medical difficulties. The Wirral Hospitals School and Home Teaching Service provides home tuition and a supportive school base for pupils with medical difficulties who would otherwise be unable to attend school.

**Where can I get more information?** You can get information about **special schools and bases** from the Special Education and Transport Section in the Children & Young People's Department.

**Tel: 0151 666 4224**