Children's Wellbeing Directorate

Jo Davidson (Director)

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| To Headteachers and SENCOs | Your Ref:Our Ref:Please ask for:Direct line / Extension:E-mail: | Les Knight01432 261724Lknight1@herefordshire.gov.uk |

Date: 6th October 2015

Dear Colleagues

**Auxiliary Aids Duty and Reasonable Adjustments for Children with Disabilities**

I am writing to further clarify the position regarding the duty on schools and local authorities to provide auxiliary aids and services to children and young people with disabilities. This duty falls under the 2010 Equality Act and commenced in September 2012. The Council’s position was originally communicated to you by Andy Hough in a letter in March 2012 and further clarified in my updated letter of January 2014.

All schools and settings are required to make reasonable adjustments to prevent a disabled child being put at a disadvantage. Typically, this will be the provision of additional classroom materials and resources. This will be provided through funding from the school budget under the scheme of delegation. In some very specific instances, the scale, the cost of provision or the highly specialist nature of the equipment may mean the aids cannot reasonably be provided by the school. In these circumstances the Local Authority (or the NHS where appropriate) would provide the equipment as a loan to the school.

Where a school needs to make a ‘reasonable adjustment’ to enable a young person to participate in the school day, the school will be responsible for classroom items costing £600 or less. Schools are expected to provide items such as writing slopes, posture packs, laptops, sound recording devices and other items that may be reasonably used in the classroom. The Local Authority however should be approached about specialist and individualised items (items specific to the child that could not be reasonably used for other young people in the school), such as supportive seats and toilet seats/frames (under £600) and high cost aids (over £600) such as radio hearing aids, sound field systems and some specialist seats. Another exception to the £600 threshold would be where a lower cost item was an integral part of a more expensive specialist piece of equipment, e.g. a replacement arm rest or leg restraint for a specialist chair.

If you have any other queries regarding this please do not hesitate to contact David Leitch (dleitch@herefordshire.gov.uk or 01432 260875).

Yours sincerely



Les Knight

Head of Additional Needs

CC: