

Provision of equipment to support c&yp with physical access needs in Wiltshire settings.

This document aims to clarify the provision of specialist equipment used to support children and young people who require additional specialist equipment to support their access to the curriculum in Early Years setting and maintained schools in Wiltshire.

Background

Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001) schools and local authorities must make reasonable adjustments to ensure students with a disability are not treated less favourably without justification and must make reasonable adjustments to ensure they are not disadvantaged compared to their peers. For schools the reasonable adjustments duty does not apply to the provision of auxiliary aids and services which currently lies within the SEN Statutory duties. Following a period of consultation it is likely that the Equalities Act 2010 will amend this and require schools to provide auxiliary aids and resources.

Regional arrangements

Information from authorities in the south west indicates that the majority of authorities operate a scheme where schools have to pay the first £250-£500 for each item of equipment. Some authorities operate different schemes for primaries and secondaries whilst others operate the same system across the board. Some authorities also have agreements with health about joint funding of the most expensive equipment. A number of authorities are part of an Integrated Community Equipment Store (ICES) through which large items of equipment are loaned to schools, funded from centrally held funding.

Wiltshire - current situation

In Wiltshire funding for specialist equipment has been retained centrally and managed by individual specialist services. Whilst these services have each developed guidance on what they each would expect settings to provide there has been no formal agreement with schools and settings. There are no formal agreements with Health about what they will provide or joint fund.

Wiltshire - Future options

It is very likely that future equalities legislation will require schools to provide auxiliary aids and resources. It is therefore necessary to consider how this duty will be met by Wiltshire schools. This will clarify existing expectations and ensure equity across Wiltshire.

1. Schools will be expected to purchase all auxiliary aids, including high value items, required under the reasonable adjustments duty to include a pupil with SEN and Disability. All current DSG related budgets to be delegated
2. Schools will be required to pay for auxiliary aids to support inclusion as per attached list. (See attached list) and high value items will be provided by the LA. This option will require continuation of a centrally retained equipment budget.

High value items of equipment that would be provided by the local authority (examples)

Specialist seating e.g. Lecky Chair

One standing frame – R82 Rabbit

Height adjustable changing table

Specialist toilet seats – Blue Wave toilet system

Toilet frames

Hoist and slings

Dynavox High Tech communication aid

Eye-gaze ICT system

ICT packages including specialist peripherals + specialist software package for children and young people with complex sensory and communication needs

High tech AAC equipment

Note:

Insurance and relocation within the school to be the responsibility of the school

Relocation between schools, maintenance and repair will be covered by the local authority

Items of equipment that would be provided by schools (examples)

ICT SEN Entitlement (examples)

Provision by Primary Schools	
Hardware	
Laptop/Desktop system.	The following peripherals:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USB Optical Mouse • Single button mouse • GlidePad touch pad • Mouse Trackerball • Jumbo XL Keyboard • Jumbo XL Keyguard
Software	
Suggested strategies for using the software have been included.	
Clicker 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T A allocated time for making Template grids to input current words needed for a lesson • TA allocated time (30 mins a week) to download Clicker grids from the Internet for use in lessons
Acceleread /Accelewrite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making use of text-to-speech to aid reading skills
Nessy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set tasks and challenges from the games • Set the appropriate level for the pupil to use • Needs to be used regularly
Textease CT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make use of word banks to aid pupil's recording • Make use of text to speech to encourage reading skills
Wordshark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily practice of current IEP targets for literacy • Monitoring and changing levels to ensure progression and progress
Numbershark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily practice of current IEP targets for numeracy • Monitoring and changing levels to ensure progression and progress

Provision by Secondary Schools	
Hardware	
Laptop/Desktop systems.	<p>The following peripherals:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USB Optical Mouse • Single button mouse • GlidePad touch pad • Mouse Trackerball • Jumbo XL Keyboard • Jumbo XL Keyguard
Software	
	Suggested strategies for using the software have been included.
Texthelp Read and Write Gold for Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access “anytime, anywhere” in the school • Pupils need to be shown which tools might be helpful to their needs • Don’t use all the tools if it isn’t necessary
SMARTNotebook 10 or Promethean Inspire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of tools that can aid pupils who need basic skills in Maths and English • Gallery contains interactive games and resources that pupils can use effectively • Copies of lessons on Interactive Whiteboards can be accessed by the pupils to help with memory and revision
Wordshark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily practice of current IEP targets for literacy • Monitoring and changing levels to ensure progression and progress
Numbershark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily practice of current IEP targets for numeracy • Monitoring and changing levels to ensure progression and progress

Provision by Special Schools or District Specialist Centres
Hardware
<p>Laptops/Desktop systems and Peripherals</p> <p>For most pupils who attend an SLD special school or District Specialist Centre it is expected that the setting will provide the hardware and software. The Adviser for ICT SEN is able to loan some equipment for a period of no longer than 3 months to help with assessing a piece of equipment suitability for a child.</p>
Software
Schools should have specialized software to meet their pupils needs.

Sensory Impairment (examples)

All Schools to provide	
Laptop	The following peripherals:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USB Optical Mouse • Jumbo XL Keyboard • Flatbed scanner • Magnifying mouse
Other	
Touch Typing software English Type Junior English Type Senior Iota touch typing with speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning to touch type as advised
PE Equipment for visually impaired Footballs with bells/lead shot High contrast balls, cones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As advised by Advisory Teacher or Children's Mobility Officer
Consumables Heavy lined paper/exercise books/graph paper Batteries for radio aids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase details to be provided
Large/Accessible Print Dictionaries book or CD Thesaurus book or CD Costs of obtaining PDF format text books from publisher Reading scheme DVDs for HI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase details to be provided

Note:

Insurance, relocation, maintenance and repair is the responsibility of the school