

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

The Disability Discrimination Act (1995) covers unlawful discrimination linked to a person's disability. At first it did not apply to education. The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 amended the Disability Discrimination Act to include education.

A key principle of the Disability Discrimination Act is that, wherever possible, disabled people should have the same opportunities as non-disabled people in their access to education.

Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act covers disability discrimination in schools. It applies to existing pupils and those who may be pupils at a school in the future.

A **disabled child** has a physical or mental difficulty which substantially and harmfully affects their day-to-day activities.

A child has **learning difficulties** if they find it significantly harder to learn than children of the same age or if they have a disability which makes it difficult for them to use educational facilities available in their area.

If a child with learning difficulties needs extra help at school, they have **special educational needs**. Many, but not all, disabled pupils have special educational needs. Some, but not all, pupils with special educational needs are also disabled.