

This is the SNIP A-Z of SEN. It is a list of issues connected with special needs, and its aim is to ensure advice can be located in specific areas of difficulty. It is freely available from <http://www.snip-newsletter.co.uk>. This version was updated in January 2008.

Acne

Inflammatory skin condition resulting from response to male hormone testosterone; may contribute to psychological problems.

The Acne Support Group: <http://www.stopspots.org>, PO Box 9, Newquay, Cornwall TR9 6WG, Tel: 0870 870 2263.

Acquired Brain Injury

Child Brain Injury Trust (Cbit): <http://www.cbituk.org>, Unit 1, The Great Barn, Baynards Green Farm, Nr. Bicester, Oxon, OX27 7SG, Tel: 0845 6014939.

Allergies

An altered or abnormal response to external stimuli. Reactions vary from mild to life-threatening and appear to be increasingly common.

Allergy in Schools: <http://www.allergyinschools.org.uk/>.

Action against Allergy (AAA): <http://www.actionagainstallergy.co.uk/>, PO Box 278, Twickenham, TW1 4QQ, Tel: 020 8892 2711.

Allergy UK (The British Allergy Foundation): <http://www.allergyuk.org/>, 3 White Oak Square, London Road, Swanley, Kent BR8 7AG, Tel: 01322 619898.

Anaphylaxis

A range of substances can result in an anaphylactic state, although best known causes include peanuts and wasp stings. First signs include itchiness and a feeling of warmth, sometimes vomiting, swelling of lips and face, followed by difficulty in breathing. Emergency treatment must be sought and often includes injections of adrenaline.

The Anaphylaxis Campaign: <http://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/>, PO Box 275, Farnborough, GU14 6SX, Tel: 01252 546100, Helpline: 01252 542029, Fax: 01252 377140.

Anaphylaxis in Schools and Child Care Settings from the *Ontario Medical Association:* <http://www.oma.org/phealth/allergy.htm>.
The *DfES* Sick Children website: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/sickchildren/>.

Anxiety Disorders

Anxiety Disorders such as phobias and panic attacks are often a physiological response to perceived danger. Included is Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). The individual feels compelled to follow a set routine and perform set tasks such as compulsive hand washing.

National Phobias Society: <http://www.phobics-society.org.uk>, National Phobias Society, Zion Community Resource Centre, 339 Stretford Road, Hulme, Manchester M15 4ZY, Tel: 08444 775 774, Fax: 0161 226 7727.

Mind: <http://www.mind.org.uk>, 15-19 Broadway, London, E15 4BQ, Tel: 020 8519 2122, Fax: 020 8522 1725.

YoungMinds: <http://www.youngminds.org.uk>, 48-50 St John Street, London EC1M 4DG, Tel: 020 7336 8445, Fax: 020 7336 8446.

Arm or Hand Deficiencies

Reach: <http://www.reach.org.uk>, PO Box 54, Helston, TR13 8WD, Tel: 0845 1306225, Fax: 0845 1300262. Exists to offer support to parents and families yet also provide help and advice to professionals who may be coming across children with hand or arm deficiencies for the first time. Guidelines to assist schools with helping the child with an artificial arm are available.

Arthritis

Disease or damage to joints usually resulting in inflammation and pain. Several types of arthritis affect children, and may be associated with Crohn's Disease and other bowel disease.

Children's Chronic Arthritis Association: <http://www.ccaa.org.uk/>, Ground Floor, Amber Gate, City Wall Road, Worcester, WR1 2AH, Tel: 01905 745595, Fax: 01905 745703.

Arthritis Care: <http://www.arthritiscare.org.uk>, 18 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD, Tel: 0207 380 6500.

Asthma

A narrowing of the airways in the lung due to inflammation and spasm. Although stress can contribute to precipitating an attack there are often environmental triggers. Usually treatable with inhalers, which must always be accessible to affected children. Severe attacks may be life threatening.

Asthma UK: <http://www.asthma.org.uk>, Summit House, 70 Wilson Street, London EC2A 2DB, Tel: 020 7786 4900, Fax: 020 7256 6075.

Attachment Disorder

A set of behaviours that are fairly fixed in a child and result from a traumatic event early on in the child's life that caused a disruption in the bonding between the child and the primary care giver. These behaviours include challenging behaviour, an inability to concentrate, and age-inappropriate emotional reactions such as tantrums and sulking.

OASIS: <http://www.oasis.co.uk>, Brock House, Grigg Lane, Brockenhurst, Hampshire SO42 7RE, Tel: 01590 622880, Fax: 01590 622 687.

Post Adoption Central Support (PACS): <http://www.postadoptioncentralsupport.org>. PACS is a group of adoptive families working with social workers, to offer support services to adoptive families after adoption. A leaflet for teachers 'Adoption, Attachment Issues and your School' is available on their website.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Impairment of activity and attention. Pupils with this difficulty are likely to indicate characteristics such as inattention, over-activity and impulsions. Most common drug treatment is Ritalin, although its increased use is controversial.

The Mental Health Foundation: <http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk>, 9th Floor, Sea Containers House, 20 Upper Ground, London SE1 9QB, Tel: 020 7803 1101, Fax: 020 7803 1111.

Another useful website is <http://www.adders.org>.

Auditory Processing Disorders also known as Central Auditory Processing Disorders

A dysfunction of processing of the auditory input causing problems with understanding what is being heard.

APDUK (Auditory Processing Disorder in the UK): <http://www.apduk.org>. APDUK promotes an increased understanding of APD in the UK by both the professional establishment, especially in the fields of education and employment, and the general public.

Dolfrog: <http://www.dolfrog.com>. Proposes coping strategies and routines to help ADP sufferers survive everyday living, and gives suggestions to help those children in school with similar problems to receive all the help and assistance they need.

Autism including Asperger Syndrome

Pervasive developmental disorder affecting social/communication skills, usually apparent in the first three years of life. Pupils with autistic characteristics often insist on routine and display obsessive behaviours. All verbal and non verbal communication is impaired. Asperger Syndrome often refers to individuals at the able end of the autistic continuum who have language but still display difficulty in understanding abstract concepts. Believed to be organic brain damage but there are genetic factors.

The National Autistic Society: <http://www.nas.org.uk/>, 393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG, 020 7833 2299. NAS exists to champion the rights and interests of all people with autism and to ensure that they and their families receive quality services appropriate to their needs. The website includes information about autism and Asperger syndrome.

The Scottish Society for Autism: <http://www.autism-in-scotland.org.uk>, Hilton House, Alloa FK10 3SA, 01259 720044. Provides and promotes services and training in education, care and support as well as life opportunities for persons of all ages with ASD, and influences both policy and practice to ensure the best possible education, care, support and life opportunities for persons of all ages with ASD.

Autism Independent UK: <http://www.autismuk.com>. Website contains a page called TEAACH, a training course that demonstrates how to work with children with Autism or Asperger syndrome.

Basic Skill

The Basic Skills Agency: <http://www.basic-skills.co.uk>, Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1NU, Tel: 020 7405 4017, Fax: 020 7440 6626. The BSA has resources to cover all ages. With growing concern regarding the numbers of adults functionally illiterate (approx. 2 million) they are increasingly important in the drive to improve standards of literacy and numeracy.

Bilingual Children

A survey indicated 170 languages are spoken in London schools alone.

The Collaborative Learning Project: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org>, 17 Barford Street, London N1 0QB, 020 7226 8885, provides useful resources available for photocopy.

National Association of Language Development in the Curriculum (NALDIC): <http://www.naldic.org.uk>, Serif House, 10 Dudley Street, Luton LU2 0NT, 01582 724724. NALDIC provides a professional forum for the teaching and learning of EAL, raising the achievement of ethnic minority learners and supporting bilingualism. The association also publishes a quarterly magazine and hosts a programme of national events and conferences.

Multilingual Matters: <http://www.multilingual-matters.com>, Frankfurt Lodge, Clevedon Hall, Victoria Rd, Clevedon, N. Somerset BS21 7HH, 01275 876519.

Bereavement

Addressing problems facing pupils after bereavement.

The Compassionate Friends: <http://www.tcf.org.uk>, TCF National Office, 53 North Street, Bristol BS3 1EN, Tel: 0845 120 3785, Fax: 0845 120 3786.

Cruse Bereavement Care: <http://www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk/>, PO Box 800, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1RG, Tel: (Day by Day helpline) 0844 477 9400, (Young Person's Helpline Freephone) 0808 808 1677, website has information for schools aimed in particular at head teachers, pastoral staff or other members of senior management teams.

The Child Bereavement Trust: <http://www.childbereavement.org.uk>, Aston House, West Wycombe, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 3AG, Tel: 01494 446648, is also useful to schools.

Brain Tumours

When cells within the brain multiply and grow into a lump or tumour. A large proportion of brain tumours in children are curable but often lead to physical problems, difficulty with understanding and learning and speech difficulties.

The Brain Tumour Foundation: http://www.24dr.com/reference/contact/group/brain_tumour_foundation.htm, PO Box 162, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3YN, 020 8336 2020, has compiled information leaflets for a donation.

Also useful is <http://www.naset.org/>.

Brittle Bone Diseases

Condition characterised by fragility of bones. There exists a range of conditions, the most common caused by inherited defects of collagen (protein responsible for building bones).

Brittle Bone Society: <http://www.brittlebone.org>, Grant-Paterson House, 30 Guthrie Street, Dundee DD1 5BS, Tel: 01382 206771, Freephone helpline: 08000 282459 (for advice only). The website contains pages giving advice on education for special needs children, nursery children and on education in general.

Bullying

27% of primary school children and 10% of secondary school children have reported that they have experienced bullying at least once a week.

Kidscape: <http://www.kidscape.org.uk>, 2 Grovesnor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH, Tel: 020 7730 3300, Fax: 020 7730 7081, Helpline: 08451 205 204. Kidscape Safer Schools (KSS) database has been designed to allow the efficient collection and analysis of the details and environment surrounding bullying incidents in schools.

ChildLine: <http://www.childline.org.uk>, Freepost NATN1111, London E1 6BR, Helpline: 0800 1111.

Bullying Online: <http://www.bullying.co.uk>, has useful information for parents, pupils, and teachers, as well as legal advice and problem pages for victims of bullying.

Cerebellar Ataxia

Affected individuals have lack of stability in sitting, standing and walking. The condition results from abnormalities of the part of the brain responsible for co-ordination.

Ataxia UK: <http://www.ataxia.org.uk>, 10 Winchester House, Kennington Park, Cranmere Rd, London SW9 6EJ, Tel: 020 7582 1444, Helpline: 0845 644 0606, Fax: 020 7582 9444.

Cerebral Palsy

A difficulty in movement caused by damage or lack of development to part of the brain.

Problems associated with Cerebral Palsy vary from slight clumsiness to far more severe evidence of spasticity (control of movements), ataxia (involuntary movements), and ataxia.

Scope: <http://www.scope.org.uk>, Scope, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW, Tel: 020 7619 7100, CP Helpline: 0808 800 3333.

Advice Service Capability Scotland (ASCS): <http://www.capability-scotland.org.uk>, 11 Ellersley Road, Edinburgh EH12 6HY, Tel: 0131 313 5510, Fax: 0131 346 1681.

Child Abuse

As teachers are in daily contact with children, they are usually the first adult outside the home to spot evidence of child abuse.

ChildLine: <http://www.childline.org.uk>, Freepost NATN1111, London E1 6BR, Helpline: 0800 1111.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC): <http://www.nspcc.org.uk>, Weston House, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH, Tel: 020 7825 2500, Fax: 020 7825 2525. NSPCC provides counselling for children on 0800 1111.

Copies of the online publication 'Safeguarding Children in Education' are available from <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/childprotection/guidance.htm>.

Childhood Cancers

Cancer is the uncontrolled multiplication of body cells forming a tumour. Some can be life-threatening but many childhood cancers are treatable.

The Christian Lewis Trust: <http://www.christianlewis trust.org>, Child Care Centre, 62 Walter Road, Swansea SA1 4PT, 01792 480500.

Cancer Research UK: <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/>, P.O. Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX. The page on children's cancers is currently at: <http://www.cancerhelp.org.uk/help/default.asp?page=6860>

Counselling

British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy: <http://www.bacp.co.uk>, BACP House, 15 St John's Business Park, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 4HB, Tel: 01455 883300, Fax: 01455 550243.

Communication

Information on delayed speech and language development from the *Nemours Foundation:*

http://kidshealth.org/parent/emotions/behavior/not_talk.html.

Crohn's disease

A gastro-intestinal inflammation which can produce a variety of symptoms including stomach pains, diarrhoea, tiredness, loss of weight. This disease is increasing in prevalence and because of the embarrassment attached to bowel disorder can also produce emotional difficulties.

The National Association for Colitis and Crohn's: <http://www.nacc.org.uk>, 4 Beaumont House, Sutton Rd. St. Albans, Herts. AL1 5HH, Tel: 0845 130 2233, Fax: 01727 862550.

Cleft Lip or Palate

In the developing foetus, separate areas of the face develop independently and then fuse together. If certain parts do not join correctly a cleft palate or lip is the result. Nowadays surgery can repair the cosmetic appearance of children with cleft palate, doing much to reduce emotional difficulties in later life. Often associated speech and eating difficulties can be corrected with help from a speech therapist.

Cleft Lip and Palate Association (CLAPA): <http://www.clapa.com>, First Floor, Green Man Tower, 332B Goswell Road, London EC1V 7LQ, Tel: 020 7833 4883, Fax: 020 7833 5999.

Conductive Education

A major breakthrough in the well-being of children and adults with motor disorders and their families. Conductive Education offers immediate and long-term advantages for those who can access it directly and strongly challenges present ways of understanding and providing for disabilities.

Conductive Education Online: <http://www.conductive-education.org.uk> is a website provided by the Foundation for Conductive Education, a registered charity that relies upon donations to continue its work.

Cystic Fibrosis

A condition where an abnormal amount of thick mucus is produced in the lungs and pancreas. Mucus production in the lungs is treated with antibiotics to dampen infection and physiotherapy to aid removal. Mucus production in the pancreas leads to inhibition of production of digestive enzymes so these have to be taken by mouth - often many tablets at each meal. Insulin production can also be affected, and as CF sufferers increase in age many become diabetic. The condition is life threatening but with improved treatment life expectancy is increasing.

Cystic Fibrosis Trust: <http://www.cftrust.org.uk>, 11 London Rd, Bromley, BR1 1BY, Tel: 020 8464 7211, Fax: 020 8313 0472.

Also useful are: <http://www.cysticfibrosis.com> and <http://www.inclusive.co.uk/support/cystictr.shtml>.

Deafness (Hearing Impaired)

Hearing impairment can be divided into two categories - Conductive where the causes are associated with difficulties in the middle and outer ear and Sensorineural where the difficulty originates from the inner ear or nerves of hearing.

Approximately 50% of hearing loss has a genetic indicator.

The National Deaf Children's Society: <http://www.ndcs.org.uk>, 15 Dufferin Street, London EC1Y 8UR, Tel: 020 7490 8656, Fax: 020 7251 5020.

DeafPlus: <http://www.deafplus.org>, First Floor, Trinity Centre, Key Close, Whitechapel, London E1 4HG, Tel: 020 7790 6147, Fax: 020 7790 6147.

Diabetes Mellitus

Diabetes is a condition that results from the body's inability to regulate glucose due to difficulties in producing insulin. As a result, glucose builds up in the blood and tissue fluid. Untreated the consequences can be serious but often Diabetes responds to insulin introduced, usually in children, by injection. Schools need to have in place arrangements to deal

appropriately with a pupil's medical needs, (a room for administering injections/blood testing etc.). Educationally, any problems are likely to be caused by imbalance of treatment and absences due to appointments.

Diabetes UK: <http://www.diabetes.org.uk>, Macleod House, 10 Parkway, London NW1 7AA, Tel: 020 424 1000, Fax 020 7424 1001.

Domestic Violence

Children who are exposed to domestic violence are likely to be adversely affected by their experiences. One in every four women in the UK suffers at the hands of domestic violence at some point in their lives, and one in six men. Although the impact of domestic violence can be severe and lead to emotional, psychological and educational problems, schools can remain unaware of the trauma that underlies the pupils' negative behaviour.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC): <http://www.nspcc.org.uk>, Weston House, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH, Tel: 020 7825 2500, Fax: 020 7825 2525. NSPCC provides counselling for children on 0800 1111.

ChildLine: <http://www.childline.org.uk>, Freepost NATN1111, London E1 6BR, Helpline: 0800 1111.

BBC 'Hitting Home': http://www.bbc.co.uk/relationships/domestic_violence/index.shtml, the effects of domestic violence on children.

Barnados: <http://www.barnados.org.uk/>.

Down's syndrome

A genetic disorder caused when an additional chromosome 21 is present. Features of the condition include mild to severe mental disability, eye, respiratory and heart defects. Pupils with Down's syndrome have a tendency to difficulty with speech, short term memory problems and delay in achieving developmental milestones.

Down's Syndrome Association: <http://www.dsa-uk.com>, Langdon Down Centre, 2a Langdon Park, Teddington, TW11 9PS, Tel: 0845 230 0372, Fax: 0845 230 0373.

Down's Syndrome Scotland: <http://www.dsscotland.org.uk>, 158/160 Balgreen Rd, Edinburgh EH11 3AU, Tel: 0131 313 4225.

Drugs

Drug / solvent abuse are increasingly issues for schools. Many LEAs have local advisors.

National Drugs Helpline: 0800 776600.

HealthLine: 0800 665544 provide a Governors/Parents pack.

DFEE produce 'Protecting Young People- Good practice in drug education in schools and the youth service' -

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/guidanceonthelaw/4_95/ProtectingYoungPeople.pdf.

The Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drug Education (TACADE) website is <http://www.tacade.com>.

Also useful is <http://www.mindbodysoul.gov.uk>.

Dyscalculia

A wide range of life-long learning difficulties involving mathematical performance that is thought to affect between 3% and 6% of the population. The following websites all have information regarding the condition:

<http://www.berkshireremathematics.com>

<http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/dyscalculia.html>

<http://www.dyscalculia.org/>

Dyslexia

Also known as SpLD (Specific Learning Difficulty), dyslexia is a condition that presents itself in all ranges of ability and often leads to persistent difficulty in acquiring literacy. Associated problems can include sequencing, organisation, motor control and directionality difficulties. There is often a familial link and the degree of difficulty can vary greatly between individuals.

The British Dyslexia Association: <http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>, 98 London Rd, Reading RG1 5AU, Tel: 0118 966 2677, Fax: 0118 935 1927.

PATOSS (The Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties): <http://www.patoss-dyslexia.org>, PO Box 10, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 1ZW, Tel: 01386 712 650, Fax: 01386 712 716. The PATOSS information sheet, 'Assessing for Special Arrangements - Guidance for Teachers & Employers', provides information on exam arrangements, appropriate tests and where to obtain them.

Dyslexia Action: <http://www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk>. Details of your nearest DA centre can be located on the website.

Dyspraxia

Associated with an inability to organise movement, pupils with dyspraxia often also display problems with language both spoken and written. The cause is thought to be related to immature neuronal development and many individuals improve levels of competence as they mature.

The Dyspraxia Foundation: <http://www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk>, 8 West Alley, Hitchin SG5 1EG, Tel: 01462 454 986.

Dystonia

A term used to describe a group of neurological disorders in which muscle spasm leads to abnormal postures. The most common causes for dystonia in childhood include Cerebral Palsy, Idiopathic Torsion Dystonia and Segawas syndrome. There is a genetic link.

The Dystonia Society: <http://www.dystonia.org.uk>, Camelford House, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP, Tel: 0845 458 6211, Fax: 0845 458 6311.

Eating disorders

Includes conditions such as Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa, where an abnormal response to eating is the primary feature. The usual sufferer is female, between the ages of 15-25. Only approx. 2% of sufferers are male. Treatment includes counselling to overcome psychological problems.

Beat (Beating Eating Disorders): <http://www.b-eat.co.uk>, 103 Prince of Wales Rd, Norwich NR1 1DW, Tel: 0870 770 3256, Adult Helpline 0845 634 1414, Youthline 0845 634 7650. The Beat website provides information and help on all aspects of eating disorders including Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia Nervosa, Binge Eating Disorder and related eating disorders.

National Centre for Eating Disorders: <http://www.eating-disorders.org.uk>, 54 New Road, Esher, Surrey KT10 9NU, 0845 838 2040.

In addition **Young Minds** provide a number of publications that can be downloaded from their website:

<http://www.youngminds.org.uk/publications/all-publications/publications-by-subject/eating-and-diet>.

EBD (Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties)

A term used to describe pupils who display reactions that are considered inappropriate to environments and situations.

SEBDA (Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties Association): <http://www.sebda.org>, Church House, 1 St Andrews View, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7YF, Tel: 01768 210510, Fax: 01768 210512. SEBDA exists to promote services for children and young people who have emotional and behavioural difficulties and to support those who work with them through its publications, representation and support professional development courses.

Eczema

A non-contagious inflammatory skin infection, eczema can affect individuals of any age. The main causes appear to be inherited susceptibility or contamination by irritants such as detergents; can lead to emotional problems.

National Eczema Society: <http://www.eczema.org>, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NA, Tel: 020 7281 3553, Fax: 020 7281 6395.

Elective/Selective Mutism

Persistent failure to speak in specific social situations. Children who refuse to speak in situations where speech is expected or necessary, to the extent that their refusal interferes with school and making friends, may be suffering from Selective Mutism, thought to be a severe form of Social Anxiety Disorder. Useful websites include

<http://www.adaa.org/GettingHelp/AnxietyDisorders/SocialPhobia.asp>

<http://www.selective-mutism.com>

<http://teachers.net/states/de/topic60/12.28.02.16.33.44.html>

Emotional Literacy

Emotional literacy is the practice of thinking individually and collectively about how emotions shape our actions, and of using emotional understanding to enrich our thinking.

Antidote: <http://www.antidote.org.uk>, 3rd Floor, Cityside House, 40 Adler Street, Aldgate E1 1EE, Tel: 020 7247 3355, Fax: 020 7247 7992.

The National Emotional Literacy Interest Group: <http://www.nelig.com>

Encephalitis

Inflammation of the brain, caused by either viral or bacterial infections. Symptoms vary according to the region of the brain which is infected. Difficulties experienced may be very slight to life threatening. Residual brain damage can result depending on the part of the brain affected and severity of the infection.

The Neurosupport Centre: <http://www.neurosupport.org.uk>, Norton Street, Liverpool L3 8LR, Tel: 0151 298 2999, Fax: 0151 298 2333, Text phone: 0151 298 3289.

The Encephalitis Society: <http://www.encephalitis.info>

Epilepsy

An altered chemical state of the brain leading to bursts of excessive electrical activity. The type of seizure experienced depends on the region of the brain where activity starts and spreads. e.g. origin in visual cortex will result in visual disturbance; if it spreads to the motor cortex then convulsions will occur. The cause of epilepsy is unknown but is

sometimes related to brain damage/infection, circulatory problems in the brain and occasionally tumours. It is possible to achieve a high degree of control in 70% of cases with drugs.

The National Society for Epilepsy: <http://www.epilepsynse.org.uk>, Chesham Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks. SL9 ORJ, Tel: 01494 601 300, Fax: 01494 871927, UK Epilepsy Helpline: 01494 601400.

British Epilepsy Association: <http://www.epilepsy.org.uk>, New Anstey House, Gateway Drive, Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7XY, Tel: 0113 210 8800, Fax: 0113 391 0300.

Epilepsy Scotland: <http://www.epilepsyscotland.org.uk>, 48 Govan Rd. Glasgow, G51 1JL, Tel: 0141 4274911, Fax: 0141 4191709.

Exclusion

The Head teacher initiates exclusions acting upon policies agreed by the Governors. The majority of pupils excluded (80%) are from Secondary school, 45% from years 10 and 11. The main reason for exclusion is disruptive and unacceptable behaviour. The number of pupils being excluded from schools is subject to targets, and too many exclusions could be taken as an indicator that a school is failing. Further information can be gained from Exclusions from Both Lucky Duck and Incentive Plus provide materials aimed at improving children's social skills.

Lucky Duck: <http://www.luckyduck.co.uk>, 0117 973 2881.

Incentive Plus: <http://www.incentiveplus.co.uk>, 01908 526 120.

Facial Disfigurement

Facial disfigurement can result from specific syndromes such as Sturge-Weber, Treacher-Collins Syndrome or as a result of birthmarks or accident. Whatever the underlying cause, it is likely that some level of emotional difficulties will result which may produce psychological problems for individuals.

Changing Faces: <http://www.changingfaces.org.uk>, The Squire Centre, 33-37 University Street, London WC1E 6JN, Tel: 0845 4500 275, Fax: 0845 4500 276 - produce a KS2 resource pack for schools.

Let's Face It: <http://www.lets-face-it.org.uk>, 72 Victoria Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent CT8 8BH, Tel: 01843 833724 - has put together a useful book called Children's Faces - <http://www.lets-face-it.org.uk/junior.html>.

Family Planning

Family Planning Association: <http://www.fpa.org.uk>, 50 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8QU, Tel: 020 7608 5240, Helpline: 0845 122 8690, Fax: 0845 123 2349 - a source of information and speakers to talk to pupils regarding contraceptive issues. The FPA is the only registered charity working to improve the sexual health and reproductive rights of all people throughout the UK.

Family Welfare

Family Welfare Association: <http://www.fwa.org.uk>, 501 – 505 Kingsland Road, London E8 4AU, Tel: 020 7254 6251, Fax: 020 7249 5443 - Involved with providing for young adults with special needs to integrate into communities.

Family Literacy

Organised by the Basic Skills Agency and involving parents and their children working together to improve levels of literacy. From the original pilot study, results indicated that twenty months after conclusion of the project both children and parents continued to improve in literacy acquisition.

Basic Skills Agency: <http://www.basic-skills.co.uk>, Commonwealth House, 1–19 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1NU, Tel: 020 7405 4017, Fax: 020 7440 6626.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

The leading known preventable cause of mental retardation and birth defects.

NOFAS (National Organisation on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome): <http://www.nofas.org>, 900 17th Street, NW, Suite 910, Washington, DC 20006, USA, Tel: +1 (202) 785-4585, +1 (800) 66NOFAS, Fax: +1 (202) 466-6456 - an American non-profit organization founded in 1990 to address alcohol use during pregnancy.

Fragile X

Fragile X is the most common form of inherited learning disability. Incidence is approx. 1:4500 in males and 1:800 in females. It can be identified by DNA analysis. Learning difficulties are common amongst affected individuals although girls are more often of average intelligence. Sufferers also tend to have difficulties with speech and language development, sequencing, spatial abilities, short term memory and some develop epilepsy. Some behaviours can be autistic-like, avoiding eye contact, hand flapping etc. As it is a genetic disorder, individuals with Fragile X Syndrome may pass it to their offspring.

National Fragile X Foundation: <http://www.fragilex.org/>, PO Box 37, Walnut Creek, California 94597, USA, Tel: +1 800 688-8765, Fax: +1 925 938-9315.

Information can also be obtained from OAASIS: <http://www.oaasis.co.uk>.

Friedreichs Ataxia

A genetic disorder characterised by the progressive degeneration of the spino-cerebellar system due to a genetic abnormality. The initial indicators include unsteadiness of gait (ataxia) which usually occurs between the ages of four and sixteen. Coordination of the muscles used in speech, the arms and legs are affected and in some cases scoliosis (sideways curvature of the spine), an enlarged heart may also be a feature.

Ataxia UK: <http://www.ataxia.org.uk>, 10 Winchester House, Kennington Park, Cranmere Rd, London SW9 6EJ, Tel: 020 7582 1444, Helpline: 0845 644 0606, Fax: 020 7582 9444.

Giftedness

Children who are outstanding in an area such as aesthetics, academic or athletic. Inadequate opportunities can lead to emotional/behavioural difficulties. Three possible routes for gifted pupils include segregation, acceleration and enrichment. Schools should have clear policies for the education of able pupils.

The National Association for Gifted Children: <http://www.nagcbrtain.org.uk>, Suite 14 Challenge house, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 6DP, Tel: 0845 450 0295, Fax: 0870 770 3217.

Glaucoma

Glaucoma affecting children is a congenital form which indicates abnormal development of the eye tissue. Cornea appears hazy and eyes may enlarge due to internal pressure. The first symptoms usually include aversion to light / watering of the eyes.

International Glaucoma Association: <http://www.iga.org.uk>, Woodcote House, 15 Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent TN24 8DH, Tel: 1233 64 81 64, Fax: 01233 64 81 79.

Glue Ear (Otitis Media)

A common conductive (affecting outer or middle ear) hearing loss caused by thick sticky secretions in the middle ear cavity, thought to affect 20% of pupils at some time up to the age of nine. Treatment can be by antibiotics or surgery resulting in the insertion of grommets. Glue Ear can be a cause of early literacy difficulties.

National Deaf Children's Society: <http://www.ndcs.org.uk>, 15 Dufferin Street, London EC1Y 8UR, Tel: 020 7490 8656, Helpline: 0808 800 8880, Fax: 020 7251 5020.

Governors

The National Governors Council has a website: <http://www.ngc.org.uk>

Growth Hormone Deficiency

The deficiency of the growth hormone, secreted by the pituitary gland occurs spontaneously in 1:5000 children. More common in boys, it usually responds to treatment.

Child Growth Foundation: <http://www.childgrowthfoundation.org>, 2 Mayfield Avenue, Chiswick, London W4 1PW, Tel: 020 8995 0257.

Haemophilia & Von Willebrand Disease

Haemophiliacs suffer from an inherited lack of clotting agent in the blood. There are approximately 10,000 affected individuals in the U.K., only 17% of who are female. The severity of the condition varies but is characterised by easy bruising and internal bleeding.

The Haemophilia Society: <http://www.haemophilia.org.uk>, First Floor, Petersham House, 57a Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JG, Tel: 020 7831 1020, Helpline: 0800 018 6068, Fax: 020 7405 4824.

Head Injuries

Acquired brain injury resulting from accident or violent shaking. The effect of a brain injury depends on the severity and the stage of development. Difficulties with learning are common as are emotional and behavioural problems.

Child Brain Injury Trust (Cbit): <http://www.cbhituk.org>, Unit 1, The Great Barn, Baynards Green Farm, Nr. Bicester, Oxon, OX27 7SG, Tel: 0845 6014939.

Heart Defects

Congenital heart abnormalities affect about 1:125 babies. 50% require surgery. Others may not require any treatment.

Children's Heart Federation: <http://www.childrens-heart-fed.org.uk>, Level One, 2-4 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3NW, Tel: 020 7422 0630, Helpline: 0808 808 5000, Fax: 020 7247 2087.

Hemiplegia

Weakness to one side of the body due to disease or damage affecting the upper motor neurones. Severity varies. Causes include cerebral palsy, developmental abnormalities or physical trauma.

Hemi-Help: <http://www.hemihelp.org.uk>, Camelford House, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP, Tel: 0845 120 3713, Fax: 0845 120 3723.

HIV infection and AIDS

Infection with HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) results in progressive destruction of the immune system. Affected individuals become susceptible to infection and often develop neurological problems. AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is a condition where an individual with HIV develops complications associated with the deteriorating immune system.

The Terrence Higgins Trust: <http://www.tht.org.uk>, 314-320 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP, Tel: 020 7812 1600, Fax: 020 7812 1601.

Hodgkin's disease

A form of cancer affecting the lymphatic system. Usually begins with glands in the neck but often glands in armpits and groin are affected. Prognosis for children with Hodgkin's disease is good.

The Hodgkin's Disease Page: <http://www.cancerindex.org/clinks2i.htm>

Huntington's disease

Consists of a triad of emotional, cognitive and motor disturbances, rarely affecting juveniles. Duration of illness is on average 15 years.

The Huntington's Disease Association: <http://www.hda.org.uk>, Down Stream Building, 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9BG, Tel: 020 7022 1950, Fax: 020 7022 1953.

Hydrocephalus

Hydrocephalus results from an obstruction causing fluid that travels over brain and into the spinal column to accumulate, leading to pressure on brain tissues. Treatment often requires insertion of a shunt to drain excess fluid.

Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus: <http://www.asbah.org>, 42 Park Rd, Peterborough, PE1 2UQ, Tel: 01733 555988, Fax: 01733 555985.

Hyperactivity

A condition that affects learning due to behaviour, concentration, impulsivity and poor sleep patterns.

Hyperactive Children's Support Group: <http://www.hacsg.org.uk>, 71 Whyke Lane, Chichester, Sussex PO19 7PD, Tel: 01243 539966.

Immune (Idiopathic) Thrombocytopenic Purpura

Childhood ITP affects 4 in every 100,000 children. It occurs when the body's immune system inappropriately attacks the platelets in the blood, causing bruising, nosebleeds and small pinpoint bleeds into the skin. Action has to be taken to reduce the incidence of internal bleeding. Most cases spontaneously resolve.

ITP Support Association: <http://www.itpsupport.org.uk>, Synehurste, Kimbolton Rd, Bolnhurst, Bedford MK44 2EW.

Inclusion

Usually taken to mean the process where pupils with SEN are fully included in mainstream school.

Inclusion UK: <http://inclusion.uwe.ac.uk/>.

Include: <http://www.include.org.uk> – a national charity dedicated to reducing social exclusion.

SEMERC: <http://www.semec.com>, Granada Learning, The Chiswick Centre, 414 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5TF, Tel: 020 8996 3333, Fax: 020 8742 8390 - the leading UK provider of solutions for inclusion in education.

Also see the **DfEE** website: <http://www.inclusion.ngfl.gov.uk>.

Independent schools

Independent schools are fee-paying and educate approximately 7% of the school population. Some independent schools offer specialisms in conditions such as dyslexia, while others are providing an education for students with learning difficulties such as autism and cerebral palsy.

The Independent Schools Council: <http://www.isc.co.uk/>

Information Technology and SEN

IT is increasingly used in class to promote understanding, provide practice and for information gathering. There is an increasing selection of software including that to enable those with spelling/writing difficulties to speak directly to the computer and have their work produced on screen for them. Laptops are being seen far more as a solution for those with handwriting, co-ordination and organisation difficulties.

British Educational Communications and Technology Agency: <http://www.becta.org.uk>, Millburn Hill Road, Science Park, Coventry CV4 7JJ, Tel: 024 7641 6994, Fax: 024 7641 1418.

Intelligence Quotients/Tests

The most common tests used to determine an Intelligence Quotient (I.Q) are WISC (Weschler Intelligence Scale for Children) and BAS (British Ability Scales). Both use a series of subtests which are intended to indicate cognitive ability and therefore potential. Average I.Q. is said to be between 85 and 115 with almost 70% of the population scoring between these figures. They are closed tests, i.e. only applicable by educational psychologists. Teacher applied cognitive tests include verbal and non-verbal reasoning tests, British Picture Vocabulary Scales (BPVS) and Raven's Matrices.

Intestinal and Urological Conditions

Includes intestinal and urological conditions, abnormalities, bed wetting and incontinence. Some of these conditions require a stoma - an external opening attached to the intestines, urethra or bladder. Bed wetting, or enuresis, carries some degree of social stigma and can lead to self-esteem problems.

National Advisory Service to Parents of Children with a Stoma (NASPCS): 51 Anderson Drive, Darvel, Ayrshire KA17 0DE, Tel: 01560 322024.

The Continence Foundation: <http://www.continence-foundation.org.uk>, 307 Hatton Square, 16 Baldwins Gardens, London EC1N 7RJ, Tel: 020 7404 6875, Helpline: 0845 345 0165, Fax: 020 7404 6876.

Irlen Syndrome

A form of visual perception dysfunction that is treated with exercises and coloured lenses/ acetates. Research suggests differing results regarding effectiveness but some individuals do appear to benefit.

See <http://www.irlen.org.uk> for a centre in your area.

Jargon

Annual review: The review of a statement undertaken by an LEA every 12 months.

Assessment: Testing and monitoring to establish learning. A statutory assessment is undertaken by the LEA to determine the level of need.

Disapplication: Removing the compulsory study of a subject, sitting of an assessment, or other part of the National Curriculum.

EBD (Emotional and behavioural difficulties): Replaced labels such as 'maladjusted' and refers to learning problems not caused by lack of ability.

Education supervision order: An order that can be applied for by the LEA to ensure that suitable education is provided.

EWO (Educational Welfare Officer): Attendance officer.

IEP (Individual Education Plan): Information recorded by school on action taken to address a pupils learning difficulty at Stage 2 and above.

Integration and Inclusion: Concerned with the effective education of those with special needs alongside their peers.

LEA (Local Education Authority): Responsibilities include arranging education of children within county boundaries.

Named Officer: An LEA employee who liaises with parents regarding their child's additional educational provision.

Named Person: An independent voluntary advisor who gives advice to parents on the statutory assessment process.

Note in Lieu: Information given to parents stating the LEA's reason for not issuing a statement after statutory assessment has taken place.

NTA (Non Teaching Assistant) or LSA (Learning Support Assistant): adults who support pupils under the direction of a teacher.

OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education): A government body responsible for the inspecting of schools.

Portage: Where professionals work with parents of mainly pre-school children who have SEN.

SEN: Special Educational Needs.

SENCO: The person or persons nominated in schools to coordinate special needs provision.

SpLD (Specific Learning Difficulties): e.g. dyslexia; also MLD: moderate or mild learning difficulties and SLD: severe learning difficulties.

Statement of educational need: issued to pupils who have special educational needs that requires the LEA to determine and arrange provision. Nationally approximately 2% of the population are deemed to fulfil these criteria.

Juvenile Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis results in a reduction of the quality and quantity of bone leading to increased risk of fracture. Although uncommon, it can affect children and adolescents. There does seem to be a familial link and although outlook is uncertain, spontaneous improvement can occur.

The National Osteoporosis Society: <http://www.nos.org.uk>, Manor Farm, Skinners Hill, Camerton, Bath BA2 0PJ, Tel: 01761 471771
Helpline: 0845 450 0230, Fax: 01761 471104.

Kawasaki Disease

This is an acute illness predominately affecting young children. Affected individuals develop a high fever lasting longer than five days, plus red eyes and lips, swollen glands and peeling of the skin in the convalescent period. In approximately 1 in 5 cases damage is caused to the coronary arteries and long term treatment is required to reduce the effects of this.

The Kawasaki Support Group: 13 Norwood Grove, Potters Green, Coventry CV2 2FR, Tel: 01203 612178.

Kidney Disease

Kidney failure occurs when the normal function of the kidneys, i.e. to regulate the constituents of the blood is impaired or ceases. It is a life-threatening condition which requires dialysis for remediation.

British Kidney Patient Association: <http://www.britishkidney-pa.co.uk>, Bordon, Hants GU35 9JZ, Tel: 01420 472021/2,
Fax: 01420 475831.

National Kidney Federation: <http://www.kidney.org.uk>, 6 Stanley Street, Worksop, Nottinghamshire S81 7HX, Tel: 01909 487795,
Helpline: 0845 601 0209, Fax: 01909 481723.

Klinefelter's Syndrome

Occurs only in males who may indicate a number of characteristics including intellectual difficulties particularly in relation to verbal skills.

Klinefelter's Syndrome Association UK: <http://www.ksa-uk.co.uk>, 56 Little Yeldham Road, Little Yeldham, Halstead, Essex, CO9 4QT,
Tel: 0845 230 0047.

Language difficulties

Language difficulties may include specific language impairment, developmental delay, semantic and pragmatic disorders, alternative communication, articulation, phonological problems, pervasive developmental disorders and aphasia/dysphasia. A major distinction is between comprehension (understanding language) and expression (using language). Language problems need assessment by observation, and preferably over time, but diagnosis and remediation need to be directed by speech and language therapists, although schools can assist in this regard.

ICAN: <http://www.ican.org.uk>, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE, Tel: 0845 225 4071, Fax: 0845 225 4072.

Afasic: <http://www.afasic.org.uk>, 2nd Floor, 50-52 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0DJ, Tel: 020 7490 9410, Fax: 020 7251 2834.

LEA (Local Education Authority)

There are 116 LEAs in England and Wales. In Scotland, education is the responsibility of 9 regional councils and 3 island councils known as Education Authorities. LEAs have traditionally been responsible for the education of pupils in their area and the organisation and devolving of funds to enable this to take place. This has changed with the introduction of Local Management of Schools (LMS) where many of the decisions are delegated to the schools themselves, with some proportion of the funding detained to cover areas such as special services, welfare and advisory services.

Learning disability

This term covers a wide spectrum of intellectual impairment. A person is considered to have a learning disability if they function at a level considerably lower than their age. Learning disability may occur on its own, or as part of a recognised syndrome, impairment or physical handicap. The main causes are chromosomal and genetic abnormality, infections, injury or trauma or socio-environmental factors.

Enable: <http://www.enable.org.uk>, 6th Floor, 7 Buchanan St., Glasgow G1 3HL, Tel: 0141 226 4541, Fax: 0141 204 4398.

Also see: <http://www.ldpride.net/learningstyles.MI.htm> and <http://www.howtolearn.com>

Left handers

Pupils who have a dominant left hand appear to often have greater difficulties with a range of fine motor control activities than right handers. There appears also to be a greater than expected proportion of children who are left handers in those who have some degree of neurological damage e.g. cerebral palsy. In some cases difficulties are exacerbated by inappropriate apparatus.

Anything Left Handed: <http://www.anythingleft-handed.co.uk>, 18 Avenue Road, Belmont, Surrey SM2 6JD, Tel: 020 8770 3722,
Fax: 020 8715 1220.

Leukaemia

This is a life threatening condition, where a suppression of the production of normal white blood cells and excessive production of abnormal cells occurs.

The Leukaemia Care Society: <http://www.leukaemiacare.org.uk>, One Birch Court, Blackpole East, Worcester WR3 8SG, Tel: 01905 755977, CARE line: 0800 169 6680, Fax: 01905 755166.

Liver Disease

There are approximately 1000 children diagnosed with liver disease every year. This can be any condition that is associated with dysfunction of the liver.

Children's Liver Disease Foundation: <http://www.childliverdisease.org>, 36 Great Charles Street, Birmingham B3 3JY, Tel: 0121 212 3839, Fax: 0121 212 4300.

Lupus

A disease in which the immune system becomes over-active. It can affect any organ of the body. Because the symptoms can be so diverse, including for example fatigue, rashes, allergies, depression and kidney failure it is called the 'great mimic'. All ages can be affected, but the commonest sufferers are young females, the peak ages being between 18 and 45.

St. Thomas' Lupus Trust: <http://www.lupus.org.uk>, Angie Davidson, Campaign Director, St Thomas' Lupus Trust, The Louise Cooté Lupus Unit, Gassiot House, St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 7EH, Tel: 020 7188 3562, Fax: 020 7188 3574.

Marfan syndrome

This is an inherited disorder that results in individuals being unusually tall and slim with lax joints. It is a disorder affecting the production of fibrillin - an important protein component of blood vessel walls, eyes, tendons and ligaments. Marfan is diagnosed when weakness is detected in at least two systems e.g. heart, eyes, skeleton. Problems associated with this condition include cardiovascular difficulties, skeletal problems, eyes and lungs.

The Marfan Association UK: <http://www.marfan-association.org.uk>, Rochester House, 5 Aldershot Rd, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 3NG, Tel: 01252 810472.

Meningitis

The meninges are the linings to brain and spinal cord. Meningitis is a condition resulting from the inflammation of the meninges by a viral or bacterial infection. The bacterial form can be life threatening, the viral form is usually less severe. Complications resulting from meningitis include hearing impairment, brain damage, epilepsy and temperament changes.

National Meningitis Trust: <http://www.meningitis-trust.org>, Fern House, Bath Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 3TJ, Tel: 01453 768000, Fax: 01453 768001.

Meningitis Research Foundation: <http://www.meningitis.org>, Midland Way, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2BS, Tel: 01454 281811, Fax: 01454 281094, Helpline: 080 8800 3344.

Mental health

A wide term encompassing many degrees of difficulty. Problems are mainly associated with difficulties in lack of development in social, emotional and intellectual ability. Mental health problems in children are increasing and likely to affect up to 20% of children at some stage.

YoungMinds: <http://www.youngminds.org.uk>, 48-50 St John Street, London EC1M 4DG, Tel: 020 7336 8445, Fax: 020 7336 8446.

Mental Health Foundation: <http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk>, London Office, 9th Floor, Sea Containers House, 20 Upper Ground, London SE1 9QB, Tel: 020 7803 1100, Fax: 020 7803 1111.

Migraine

Up to 10% of the population are affected by migraines. The cause is uncertain but is generally familial, and can result from a number of triggers including dairy products, missing meals, stress, insufficient fluids, hormone imbalance etc. A migraine can result in a severe headache but in childhood, headaches are uncommon, with problems usually occurring in the abdomen.

The Migraine Trust: <http://www.migrainetrust.org>, 55-56 Russell Square, London WC1B 4HP, Tel: 020 7436 1336, Fax: 020 7436 2880.

Motor Neurone Disease

Neurons (the nerve cells that control muscles) degenerate causing progressive muscular wasting. Intellectual and sensory capacities remain unimpaired.

Motor Neurone Disease Association: <http://www.mndassociation.org>, P.O. Box 246, Northampton NN1 2PR, Tel: 01604 250505.

Multiple Sclerosis

M.S. is a neurological condition in which damage occurs to the myelin sheath coating to nerves. This causes distortion of the messages from the brain and results in a number of physical conditions including numbness, tingling, temporary sensory impairments, loss of coordination, slurred speech and difficulty in performing fine motor movements. Symptoms usually begin in adolescence with children rarely affected.

Multiple Sclerosis Resource Centre: <http://www.msrc.co.uk>, 7 Pear Tree Business Centre, Pear Tree Rd, Stanway, Colchester CO3 0JN, Tel: 01206 505444.

Multiple Sclerosis Society: <http://www.mssociety.org.uk>, MS National Centre, 372 Edgware Rd, London NW2 6DN, Tel: 020 8438 0700.

Muscular Dystrophy

M.D.s are a group of progressive neuro-muscular disorders, varying in severity from life-threatening to mild. The conditions are characterised by muscular weakness and dysfunction by a motor unit such as motor nerve cells in the brain stem. M.D. sufferers gradually lose muscle fibre which is then replaced by fibrous tissue and fat.

Muscular Dystrophy Campaign: <http://www.muscular-dystrophy.org>, 61 Southwark Street, London SE1 0HL, Tel: 020 7803 4800, Fax: 020 7401 3495.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E)

Also known as chronic fatigue syndrome, M.E. is increasingly recognised as a debilitating illness. It often results from exposure to viral infections. Particularly affects adults (teachers and doctors especially vulnerable due to high levels of exposure to viral infections) but is also being diagnosed in those as young as seven.

M.E. Association: <http://www.meassociation.org.uk>, 4 Top Angel, Buckingham MK18 1TH, Tel: 01280 818968, Fax: 01280 821602.

Action for M.E.: <http://www.afme.org.uk>, Third Floor, Canningford House, 38 Victoria Street, Bristol BS1 6BY, Tel: 0845 123 2380, Fax: 0117 9279552.

Also see: <http://www.youngactiononline.com>, <http://www.ayme.org.uk>, <http://www.raisingkids.co.uk/forum/>, <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/medical/>.

Narcolepsy

Narcolepsy is a malfunction of the sleep/wake regulating system in the brain which until recently was of unknown origin. Its most common manifestation is excessive daytime sleepiness and sleep attacks. The other conspicuous symptom is a sudden loss of muscular control triggered by amusement, anger or excitement which is called cataplexy. An inheritable factor has been identified which can increase the likelihood of developing narcolepsy by up to 10 times compared with those without it the factor.

Narcolepsy Association UK (UKAN): <http://www.narcolepsy.org.uk>, PO Box 13842, Penicuik EH26 8WX, Tel: 0845 450 0394, Fax: 0870 777 3039.

National Association for Special Educational Needs (NASEN)

Provides affordable resources, courses and information on a range of special needs. Individuals or institutions can join to benefit from concessionary rates.

NASEN: <http://www.nasen.org.uk>, NASEN House, 4/5 Amber Business Village, Amington, Tamworth B77 4RP, Tel: 01827 311500, Fax: 01827 313005.

National Curriculum

The National Curriculum sets out what must be taught to children in state schools between the ages of 5 and 16. It was introduced in 1988. Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own versions. The National Curriculum covers 4 age ranges - Key Stages 1 to 4. At the end of all Key Stages children are given Standard Assessment Tasks (SATs) which are intended to identify what stage individual pupils have achieved. Under the terms of the 1988 Education Act parts of the N.C. can be disappplied to those children with SEN.

See: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk>.

Neurofibromatosis

Neurofibromatosis is a genetic disorder causing tumours on nerve endings anywhere in the body. There are two main types: NF1 caused by a defect on chromosome 17, and much rarer NF2 caused by a defect on chromosome 22. The main feature of NF1 includes pale brown spots on the skin. 50% of children also have speech and language difficulties. Approx half of affected individuals have specific learning difficulties such as short term memory deficits, clumsiness and poor concentration. Often children with this disorder display emotional/behavioural problems that are likely to need additional intervention.

Neurofibromatosis Association: <http://www.nfauk.org>, Quayside House, 38 High Street, Kingston on Thames, Surrey KT1 1HL, Tel: 020 8439 1234, Fax: 020 8439 1200.

Non-Verbal Learning Disorder (NLD)

NLD is a neurological syndrome consisting of specific assets and deficits. The assets include early speech and vocabulary development, remarkable rote memory skills, attention to detail, early reading skills development and excellent spelling skills. In addition, these individuals have the verbal ability to express themselves eloquently. Moreover, persons with NLD have strong auditory retention. Four major categories of dysfunction also present themselves

- **Motoric:** lack of coordination, balance problems and difficulties with graphomotor skills.
- **Visual-spatial-organizational:** poor visual recall, faulty spatial perceptions.
- **Social:** lack of ability to comprehend non-verbal communication, difficulty adjusting to transitions and novel situations and problems with social judgement and social interaction.
- **Sensory:** sensitivity in any of the sensory modes: visual, auditory, tactile, taste or olfactory.

See <http://www.behavenet.com>, <http://www.nldline.com> and <http://www.nldontheweb.org>.

Noonan's Syndrome

Noonan's Syndrome takes its name from Dr. Jacqueline Noonan who, as a Paediatric Cardiologist in the United States, noticed that many children attending her clinic with narrowing of the pulmonary valves were also short and had similar facial features. The first description was in 1963 and since then the condition has been recognised all over the world.

See http://www.bdfnewlife.co.uk/docs/family_patients_area/fp_noonan_1.htm

Nurture Groups

Small classes within schools to support pupils with emotional and social needs.

The Nurture Group Network: <http://www.nurturegroups.org>, 004 Spitfire Studios, 63-71 Collier Street, London N1 9BE,
Tel: 020 7833 9603, Fax: 020 7833 9798.

Nystagmus

A term used to describe jerky movements of the eyeball, but also associated with visual impairment. Research indicates that nystagmus occurs in approximately 1 in 670 births.

Nystagmus Network: <http://www.nystagmusnet.org>, 13 Tinsley Close, Claypole, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG23 5BS,
Tel: 01636 627 004.

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

OCD is found in approximately 3% of 17 year olds and can occur in younger children. It is diagnosed when an individual has obsessions that occupy a considerable part of their day and engage in compulsive behaviours such as constantly checking things, in order to reduce the anxiety the compulsion causes them. It often occurs as the result of a trauma.

See <http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/information/mental-health-a-z/obsessive-compulsive-disorder/> and <http://www.mentalhealth.com>.

Occupational Therapist

A specialist who has undergone training to assist those with motor and physical coordination difficulties. O.T.s are usually hospital based but their advice can be sought as part of an assessment. Often they will advise on an appropriate programme aimed at remediating coordination or spatial difficulties.

Moving Forward: <http://www.movingforward.org.uk>, Third Floor, 94 New Bond Street, London W1S 1SJ, Tel: 020 7629 7242,
Fax: 020 7493 9374.

OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education)

OFSTED is part of the process of making schools more accountable and to ensure that they provide pupils with a satisfactory standard of education. All 24,000 schools in England that are wholly or mainly state funded are inspected on a cycle by a team of inspectors who gather evidence and publish a report.

Reports on individual schools can be found on the OFSTED website: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Olliers Disease

This occurs where bones in the limbs, pelvis, fingers and ribs develop multiple cartilage islands causing them to be shortened and bent, resulting in pain. Treatment is by surgical intervention.

Olliers Disease Self-Help Group: <http://www.cafamily.org.uk>, 209-211 City Road, London EC1V 1JN, Tel: 020 7608 8700,
Fax: 020 7608 8701.

Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)

ODD is diagnosed when a child displays a certain pattern of behaviours that includes losing their temper frequently, defying adults, being easily annoyed, and deliberately irritating others. It is a less extreme behaviour than that experienced by those who have conduct disorder. ODD is often addressed by the use of behaviour management techniques. If left untreated, ODD could evolve into conduct disorders.

Useful information at <http://www.adders.org/info19.htm>.

Also see <http://www.conductdisorders.com>.

Organic Acidaemias

This is a group of inherited genetic metabolic disorders in which an essential enzyme is missing leading to a defect in protein metabolism. Characteristics of the condition include breathing and feeding difficulties, hypotonia (floppiness) and/or spasticity (stiffness). Early identification can lead to treatment that may mitigate many of the effects of the disorder. There are increasing numbers of disorders that are being classified as organic acidaemias.

Children Living With Inherited Metabolic Diseases (Climb): <http://www.climb.org.uk>, Climb Building, 176 Nantwich Road, Crewe CW2 6BG, Tel: 0845 241 2173, Fax: 0845 241 2174.

Patau's Syndrome (Trisomy 13)

This syndrome occurs when a child has an extra chromosome 13 in every cell. It is characterised by a number of symptoms including heart defects and mental retardation. There is a mosaic form where not all cells have the additional chromosome. The severity of the condition depends on the ratio of affected and unaffected cells. Also related to Patau's Syndrome is Edwards' Syndrome (Trisomy 18). Patau's syndrome affects 1 in 4,000 births with equal numbers of boys and girls affected. Edwards' syndrome affects 1 in 3,000 births with three times as many girls affected.

Support Organisation For Trisomy 13/18 (SOFT): <http://www.soft.org.uk>, Rosemary Davies, 7 Orwell Road, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4LQ, Tel: 01730 261 258.

Pathological Demand Avoidance Syndrome

A condition where individuals share autistic characteristics as well as displaying behaviour that avoids all situations where they are controlled.

The Early Years Diagnostic Centre: <http://www.pdacontact.org.uk>, 272 Longsdale Rd, Ravenshead, Notts. NG15 9AH, Tel: 01623 490879, Fax: 01623 794746.

Peer Support

Peer support projects in schools enable students to offer help and support to fellow students by setting up projects run by and for children and young people with adult supervision. Projects remain under the direction and control of each individual school and can be implemented as listening services, mentoring and befriending schemes, and education projects or schools councils. Students will need training in listening, support and communication skills. Peer support enhances and develops the social and emotional well being of children and young people in schools.

Two NCB Spotlight briefings are available from: <http://www.ncb.org.uk/>, they are

http://www.ncb.org.uk/dotpdf/open%20access%20-%20phase%201%20only/peer_spotlightbrief_200411.pdf and

http://www.ncb.org.uk/dotpdf/open%20access%20-%20phase%201%20only/stepforward_psfbriefing200302.pdf.

Also, from <http://www.nspcc.org.uk>, http://www.nspcc.org.uk/documents/settinguppeersupport_pdf_wdf36303.pdf.

Perthes Disease

This disease has an onset between the ages of 2-14 with more boys affected than girls. It is a disease of the head of the femur resulting from an interruption of the blood supply causing an inadequate hip joint. Usually, within three years the blood vessels are replaced and new bone has formed.

Perthes Association: <http://www.perthes.org.uk>.

Phenylketonuria (PKU)

PKU is an inherited metabolic condition affecting 1 in 10,000 children where there is a lack of an enzyme necessary for the conversion of protein. Proteins are made up of amino acids one of which is called phenylalanine. If phenylalanine accumulates in the body then normal brain development is affected. The heel prick test is carried out on new born babies to identify PKU. Treatment is by following a special diet that is low in proteins.

National Society for Phenylketonuria (NSPKU): <http://www.nspku.org/>.

Phobias

A phobia is an extreme aversion to an object or activity. It is usually expressed by high levels of stress and anxiety sometimes leading to panic attacks. A phobia may restrict an individuals functioning and require professional treatment.

National Phobics Society: <http://www.phobics-society.org.uk>, National Phobics Society, Zion Community Resource Centre, 339 Stretford Road, Hulme, Manchester M15 4ZY, Tel: 08444 775 774, Fax: 0161 226 7727.

Play Therapy

The British Association of Play Therapists (BAPT): <http://www.bapt.uk.com>, 1, Beacon Mews, South Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9DZ, Tel: 01932 828638, Fax: 01932 820100.

Portage

A scheme developed to address the needs of pre-school children with learning difficulties. Originating from Portage, Wisconsin it came to Britain in 1978 and aims to increase the opportunities available to both children and their parents to benefit from their education. Generally a teacher visits parent and child at home on weekly basis and suggests a programme which is undertaken in stages by the carers.

See: <http://www.portage.org.uk/>.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

PTSD is being increasingly diagnosed as recognition is given that children as well as adults need help adapting to traumatic events. PTSD is a natural emotional reaction to a deeply shocking and disturbing experience. It is a normal reaction to an abnormal situation. It is common and affects around 5% of men and 10% of women some time in their life.

See: <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/articles/article.aspx?ArticleID=293>.

Prader-Willi Syndrome

Prader-Willi is characterised by shortness of stature, obesity and learning difficulties. Cause at present uncertain although there could be a genetic link.

Prader-Willi Association (UK): <http://pwsa.co.uk/>, 125a London Road, Derby DE1 2QQ, Tel: 01332 365676, Fax: 01332 360401.

OAASIS: <http://www.oaasis.co.uk> - provide a fact sheet on Prader-Willi syndrome:

http://www.oaasis.co.uk/public/documents/PWS%2001_07.pdf.

Primary Immune Deficiencies (PIDs)

PIDs are the result of deficiencies in the immune system. Lack of antibody action results in repeated infections which can be life threatening. Treatment is usually by replacement antibody treatment.

The Primary Immunodeficiency Association (PiA): <http://www.pia.org.uk>, Alliance House, 12 Caxton Street, London SW1H 0QS, Tel: 020 79767640, Fax: 020 79767641.

Psoriasis

Over one million individuals suffer from psoriasis, a skin disorder that presents as raised red patches of flaking skin usually on knees, elbows and scalp, although other areas may be affected. It is not contagious but as it often develops in puberty and has associated emotional consequences.

The Psoriasis Association: <http://www.psoriasis-association.org.uk/>, Dick Coles House, 2 Queensbridge, Northampton NN4 7BF, Tel: 0845 676 0076, Fax: 01604 251621.

Racial Discrimination

Defined as unfavourable treatment on account of a person's race, colour, nationality or ethnic origins. All schools should have racial discrimination policies that detail how incidents of racial discrimination and abuse will be dealt with.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>, 3 More London, Riverside Tooley Street SE1 2RG, Tel: 020 3117 0235, Fax: 01925 884 275.

The Runnymede Trust: <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/>, 7 Plough Yard, Shoreditch, London EC2A 3LP, Tel: 020 7377 9222, Fax: 020 7377 6622.

Raising Standards

This website includes information on a whole range of issues associated with raising standards:

<http://www.simonmidgley.co.uk/>.

Reading tests/ages

Most reading tests are standardised allowing a reading performance to be compared with others of a similar age.

GL Assessment (prev. NFER/Nelson): <http://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/>, The Chiswick Centre, 414 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 5TF, Tel: 020 8996 8445, Fax: 020 8996 3660.

Hodder Education: <http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk>, Hodder Education, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH, Tel: 020 7873 6000, Fax: 020 7873 6299.

Reflex Anoxic Seizures (RAS)

A seizure triggered by unexpected stimuli such as fear, anxiety, or surprise. The heart is stopped temporarily, the eyes roll, jaws clench and the skin develops a marked pallor. In some cases the body stiffens and there may be jerking movements of the limbs. After a few seconds the heart restarts and the body relaxes but the child may remain unconscious.

STARS (Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures): <http://www.stars.org.uk>, P.O. Box 175, Stratford upon Avon CV37 8YD, Tel: 01789 450564, Fax: 01789 450 682.

Refugee Children

Almost 70,000 children are asylum seeking or refugee children in the UK, the majority in the Greater London Area.

Save the Children: <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk>, 1 St. John's Lane, London EC1M 4AR, Tel: 020 7012 6400.

Education Action: <http://www.education-action.org/>, 3 Dufferin Street, London EC1Y 8NA, Tel: 020 7426 5800.

The Refugee Council: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk>, 240-250 Ferndale Road, Brixton, London SW9 8BB, Tel: 020 7346 6700, Fax: 020 7346 6701.

Retinitis Pigmentosa

A group of hereditary diseases of the retina, the light sensitive area at the back of the eye, which may lead to degeneration of the retina causing visual impairment. The first symptom is night blindness followed by reduction in peripheral vision causing tunnel vision.

British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society: <http://www.brps.org.uk>, PO Box 350, Buckingham MK18 1GZ, Tel: 01280 821334, Fax: 01280 815900.

Rett Syndrome

A neurological disorder affecting females. Babies appear normal at birth with appropriate development until the first birthday when reduced development begins, loss of abilities in speech, motor and social skills. Only 50% learn to walk independently. Feeding difficulties, growth retardation, repetitive behaviours and lack of control of voluntary movements are common. Physical difficulties tend to increase with age but communication abilities often improve.

Rett Syndrome Association UK: <http://www.rettssyndrome.org.uk>, 113 Friern Barnet Road, London N11 3EU, Tel: 0870 770 3266 or 020 8361 5161, Fax: 0870 770 3265 or 020 8368 6123.

SATs (Standard Assessment Tasks)

SATs are part of the process that is aimed at ensuring the accountability of schools in providing an effective education for their pupils. They are also used to produce targets to improve attainments. SATs are used to place primary schools in league tables. Some pupils with SEN can have special arrangements made for them when undertaking assessments.

Schizophrenia

Mental illness in children is being increasingly recognised. Schizophrenia sufferers indicate certain characteristics including extreme mood changes, aggression or withdrawal and may feel they are being externally controlled. Onset is often in young adulthood and appears earlier in boys than girls. There does seem to be some inherited tendency towards schizophrenia.

Rethink: <http://www.rethink.org/>, 5th Floor, Royal London House, 22-25 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DX, Tel: 0845 456 0455.

Scoliosis

Lateral curvature of the spine affecting 3 or 4 in every 1000. The causes of scoliosis are many, and although we well understand the consequences, the origins of this condition remain complex and obscure. There are two main types of scoliosis: idiopathic (no known cause) and syndromic (the curvature is part of a recognised disease pattern, such as Marfan's syndrome). There is a definite genetic connection, with around 25% of those with a scoliosis having a direct relative with a curvature.

The Scoliosis Association UK: <http://www.sauk.org.uk>, 4 Ivebury Court, 323-327 Latimer Road, London W10 6RA, Tel: 020 8964 5343, Helpline: 020 8964 1166, Fax: 020 8964 5343.

School Phobia

Increasingly diagnosed, school phobia is an acute aversion to school causing both emotional and physical symptoms. Professional help is required to address the difficulties. Educational Welfare Officers often have experience in this area. See <http://www.drpaul.com/behaviour/schoolphobia.html>.

Self Harming Behaviour

When an individual deliberately inflicts physical injury on themselves. It is often seen as an indicator of emotional trauma and distress. It is a coping device that temporarily gives relief from anxiety. Those who self-harm report that they use their actions to try and gain control over painful feelings, stop flashbacks, or punish themselves.

Young Minds: <http://www.youngminds.org.uk/>.

The Samaritans: <http://www.samaritans.org/>, The Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey KT17 2AF – produce a pack on self-harming: http://www.samaritans.org/your_emotional_health/publications/youth_and_self-harm.aspx.

SENDA

The Disability Discrimination Act (1995) was amended in 2002 to cover all aspects of education. The SEN and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA) makes discrimination against disabled individuals unlawful in their access to education.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>, 3 More London, Riverside Tooley Street SE1 2RG, Tel: 020 3117 0235, Fax: 01925 884 275.

SEN Resources

Diane Davies has spent many years devising games and lists to assist with the teaching of pupils with special needs. Go to: http://www.geocities.com/sen_resources/resources.html.

Sickle Cell Anaemia

Sickle Cell Anaemia is an inherited disorder affecting the oxygen carrying haemoglobin in the blood. It is more common in those of African, Caribbean or Mediterranean origins. Characteristics can include painful swellings of the hands and feet often exacerbated by dehydration, exercise or infection. Difficulties such as spleen damage, strokes, eye problems and delayed growth may also occur.

Organisation for Sickle Cell Anaemia Research (OSCAR), Nottingham:

<http://beehive.thisisnottingham.co.uk/default.asp?WCI=SiteHome&ID=3562&PageID=17122>, 8 Church Square, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 2FB, Tel: 0115 9509511.

The Sickle Cell Anaemia Society: <http://www.sicklecellsociety.org>, 54 Station Rd, London NW10 4UA, Tel: 020 8961 7795, Fax: 020 8961 8346.

Sotos Syndrome

In this syndrome babies are larger than average and display delayed development and language problems. Intelligence is usually within the normal to mild learning disability range. There is also evidence of clumsiness. Many children with this syndrome will be in mainstream schools but will require support due to difficulties with language processing and recall of information. There may also be behaviour problems including aggression and social difficulties.

Child Growth Foundation: <http://www.childgrowthfoundation.org/Sotos.htm>, 2 Mayfield Avenue, Chiswick, London W4 1PW, Tel: 020 8995 0257.

Speech and language impairment

ICAN: <http://www.ican.org.uk/>

AFASIC: <http://www.afasic.org.uk/> - offer help for speech and language impaired children.

Also see: <http://www.qed.uk.com>.

Spina Bifida

This condition results from a malformation of the neural tube that occurs very early in pregnancy. The neural tube is split, causing one or more vertebrae to fail to develop, leaving a gap in the spinal cord. Depending on the severity of the condition, the symptoms presented can vary from mild, perhaps a minor difficulty in continence, to very severe and life-threatening. Hydrocephalus, an excess of fluid in the brain, is present in 80% of those who have spina bifida.

Association of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus: <http://www.asbah.org/>, 42 Park Road, Peterborough PE1 2UQ, Tel: 01733 555988, Fax: 01733 555985.

Also see 'Supporting pupils with medical needs': <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthandsafety/medical/>.

Stammering

Pausing, repeating words or sounds ("can, can, can I", or "mu mu mu mummy"), stopping and starting again are the sorts of dysfluencies that occur when children are learning to talk. Many have episodes of obvious dysfluency during the years of very rapid language development (2-5 years) and at other times during childhood when there are extra pressures to speak well. When normal dysfluencies occur so often that they interfere with talking or cause distress to either the speaker or the listener, then stammering may develop. If relaxed repetitions or stretched out sounds become very tense and the child struggles to finish a word then he or she may be stammering.

British Stammering Association: <http://www.stammering.org/>, 15 Old Ford Road, London E2 9PJ, Tel: 020 8983 1003, Fax: 020 8983 3591 - useful information for teachers on the website.

Statement of Special Educational Needs

A legally binding document drawn up by an LEA. It specifies the nature of the special needs and the support needed to address those needs and is subject to annual review. Information on the assessment procedure can be obtained from DfEE and the LEA.

Tourette syndrome

Tourette is a condition characterised by multiple tics, often facial and vocal. Children affected by this condition may display obsessive behaviours, echolia (mimicking phrases/gestures), poor concentration or behaviour difficulties. Four times as many males as females are affected with an incidence of 5 in 10,000. It is a life-long condition although the severity of the symptoms may vary throughout life.

Tourette Syndrome (UK) Association: <http://www.tsa.org.uk/>, Southbank House, Black Prince Road, London SE1 7SJ, Tel: 020 7793 2356.

Travellers' children

Travellers includes such groups of people as gypsies, fairground, circus people, and new age travellers. Their lifestyles can cause disruption to children's education and therefore provision can be difficult to co-ordinate. To assist with this, travellers are now issued with a child education record that can be transferred from school to school. LEAs provide specialist provision for this group, some in collaboration with a group of authorities.

See the OFSTED publication '*The Education of Travelling Children*' at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/assets/445.pdf>.

Truancy

The deliberate avoidance of school. Many schools supported by Welfare Officers are making efforts to reduce numbers of pupils truanting. Reports have identified that in more than half the cases of truancy, parents were aware that their child was not attending. Truancy levels may be related to the increased leaving age, unsuitable/inappropriate curriculum and disenchantment. Police have been given powers to return truants to school. Absence figures are included in information gathered for OFSTED inspection.

Tuberous Sclerosis

This disorder is a complex genetic condition that may affect many of the body systems including the heart, skin, kidneys, bones, lungs and intestines. Epileptic seizures occur in 75% of individuals and learning difficulties will be experienced by approximately half. There may be specific language difficulties, with hyperactivity and attention problems. Sometimes behaviour and autistic features are present.

Tuberous Sclerosis Association: <http://tuberous-sclerosis.org>, Diane Sanson, Head of Administration, Tuberous Sclerosis Association, PO Box 12979, Barnt Green, Birmingham, B45 5AN, Tel: 0121 445 6970.

Turner Syndrome

This is a genetic condition affecting 1 in 2,500 girls where the second X chromosome is absent or abnormal. It is characterised by short stature and non-functioning ovaries leading to the absence of puberty and sterility. Often there may be sleeping and feeding difficulties and evidence of learning difficulties.

The Turners Syndrome Support Society (UK): <http://www.tss.org.uk/>, 13 Simpson Court, 11 South Ave, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR, Tel: 0141 952 8006, Fax: 0141 952 8025.

Twins

There are over 8,000 multiple births each year in the U.K. Many are twins, who may be monozygotic (identical) or dizygotic (non identical).

Multiple Births Foundation: <http://www.multiplebirths.org.uk>, Hammersmith House Level 4, Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea Hospital, Du Cane Road, London, W12 0HS, Tel: 020 8383 3519, Fax: 020 8383 3041.

Twins and Multiple Births Association (TAMBA): <http://www.tamba.org.uk/>, 2 The Willows, Gardner Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4PG, Tel: 01483 304 442, Fax: 01483 302 483 – has a special needs group that provides support and advice to professionals.

Underachievement

A term used to describe the apparent lack of success attached to those who fail to reach what may be thought of as their potential. Boys' underachievement has been in the news for some years as the gap between the external exam results of girls and boys continues to widen. The underachievements of pupils from ethnic minorities also cause concern.

See http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_9822.aspx.

Value Added

This is a term increasingly used to describe the benefits that have been gained by pupils during attendance at a particular school. A recent report in Tyne and Wear suggested that the quality of teaching made almost no difference to the eventual attainments of students. Factors such as prior learning, motivation and methods of information delivery were far more significant.

Visual Dyslexia

A term used to describe literacy acquisition difficulties that have visual problems unrelated to acuity as their root. Remediation often includes the use of exercises, coloured overlays, lenses and more recently contact lenses.

Irlen Syndrome: See <http://www.irlen.org.uk> for a centre in your area.

Institute of Optometry: <http://www.ioo.org.uk/>, 52-56 Newington, Causeway, London SE1 6DS, Tel: 020 7407 4183, Fax: 020 7403 8007.

Visual Impairment

Visual impairment is a dysfunction of the eye, the relevant nerves or the parts of the brain related to vision. Visual impairment can be total or partial, congenital or acquired.

Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB): <http://www.rnib.org/>, 105 Judd Street, London WC1H 9NE, Tel: 020 7388 1266, Fax: 020 7388 2034.

Voice Activated Software

A way forward for many pupils, VAS can support pupils who find reading and writing difficult.

iANSYST: <http://www.iansyst.co.uk/>, Fen House, Fen Road, Cambridge CB4 1UN, Tel: 01223 420101 - provides information on a variety of software, written from a dyslexic point of view at <http://www.dyslexic.com/>.

Becta: <http://www.becta.org.uk>, Millburn Hill Road, Science Park, Coventry CV4 7JJ, Tel: 024 7641 6994 - provides 'Managing Special Needs'.

Violence

Teachers are three times more likely to be threatened than other groups of workers. Recent changes to the law allowing teachers to restrain aggressive pupils can make it more likely that teachers become involved in violence within school. The best protection is training in de-escalating techniques.

Vocational Education

Education which is geared to the needs of industry and commerce. Vocational qualifications such as BTEC or City & Guilds provide evidence of particular work based skills. The development of the GNVQ is an attempt to unify vocational qualifications and provide equivalents to GCSEs and A levels.

Wheelchair Users

The Association of Wheelchair Children: <http://www.wheelchairchildren.org.uk> is a national registered charity that provides mobility courses free of charge for children using manual and powered wheelchairs. All courses are conducted by physiotherapists.

Williams Syndrome

Children with Williams Syndrome tend to share certain physical characteristics that include upturned nose, wide mouths and prominent cheeks. They often have some heart function disorder and have a range of psychological and behaviour problems that include hyperactivity, poor attention skills and obsessive behaviour. Often there is hypersensitivity to loud noises.

The Williams Syndrome Foundation Ltd: <http://www.williams-syndrome.org.uk>, 161 High Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1BX, Tel: 01732 365152, Fax: 01732 360178.

OAASIS: <http://www.oaasis.co.uk> - provide a number of information sheets.

WISC 111 U.K.

The Weschler Intelligence Scales for Children is now in its third edition and is the most widely used intelligence test in the world. It consists of five verbal and five performance subtests plus three additional tests which may also be applied but are not used to calculate an I.Q. score. It is a closed test, applied only by educational psychologists and is appropriate for those up to 17 years.

Working with Parents

The 1993 Education Act and Code of Practice that followed it, promoted the concept of parents as partners in their children's education. Recent legislation has introduced the Parents' Charter and Home-School agreements to ensure that parents are involved with schools and the education they provide. OFSTED monitor parental involvement through evidence

collected during inspections and schools are encouraged to include parents' as well as pupils' views in deciding action for pupils. During 1998, The Stationery Office commissioned a study which suggested that 90% of parents want to become more involved with their child's education.

Young offenders

A recent report called Wasted Lives, suggested that the 2,500 young offenders, broadly defined as those between the ages of 10-14, who have been convicted of criminal offences, currently in prison, are costing at least £190,000,000. The report argues that early intervention to support families and raise educational standards by tackling exclusion and truancy issues would be far more cost effective. A summary of the report is available from NACRO for £1.50 Tel: 0207 582 6500.

Zone of Proximal Development

A concept introduced by Vygotsky and described briefly as being the difference between actual and potential development level. Vygotsky maintained that the child follows the adult's example and gradually develops the ability to do certain tasks without help or assistance. He called the difference between what a child can do with help and what he or she can do without guidance the "zone of proximal development" (ZPD). The whole-language approach to teaching reading and writing draws on this notion. As children play and interact with others at home and at school, they develop specific models of communication, expression and explanation.