

DIVERSITY

Defined.

D for Disability

Celebrate all differences as an opportunity to learn

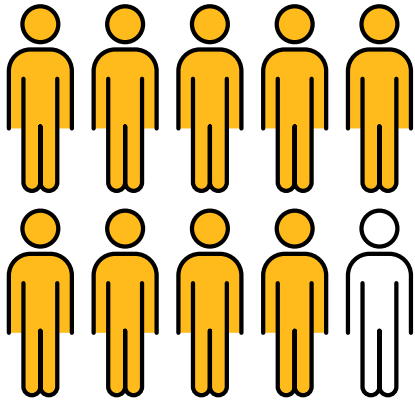
Within education we should be continually looking to challenge the perceptions of disability and celebrating the diversity of our communities. The Equality Act requires schools to make sure the needs of disabled people, whether that is pupils, parents, or visitors, are met. Though people have needs, society disables them by not considering their needs at the forefront of provision.

“ As a profession identifying the strengths of our pupils and ensuring we see the ‘ability’ in disability is key to inclusion. ”

There are real risks if we see the disability before we see the young person, that we make assumptions about what they will be able to achieve, that we compromise ambitions, that we offer help and support before considering whether that is truly what they need or even before we ask them. We talk about stretching and challenging our able pupils, this should be the aim for ALL.



Written by, **Zoe Mather**
Education Officer



9% of teachers

think the current education system effectively supports achievement and aspiration for pupils with SEND*

*Pearson School Report - April 2022.

We are still designing buildings with steps, rather than ramps that all can use; we design equipment such as science benches at a certain height without considering having height adjustable benches; we have dining rooms too small to manage all the pupils at one time, so they are overcrowded and noisy.

“ We should be talking to young people with differences and seeing their input as key to developing models of change to ensure all are included. ”

We should be actively removing archaic barriers and co-creating new spaces and environments to avoid inadvertently introducing new ones.

Let's celebrate all differences as an opportunity to learn and move forward to a more inclusive society where everyone is welcomed and feels a true sense of belonging.

Get involved by sharing your thoughts on what diversity in education means to you.

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#DiversityDefined