

Impartiality Policy

The role of Richmond & Kingston SENDIASS is to provide children, young people and parent carers with confidential and impartial information, advice and support to enable them to make informed decisions about a child's/young person's special educational needs. This is achieved by working in partnership with children, young people and parent carers, providing information, services and training, working with relevant agencies and ensuring service users' views influence local policy and practice.

Why does Richmond & Kingston SENDIASS act impartially?

Richmond & Kingston SENDIASS needs to be impartial of everyone – the Local Authority, schools, education ideologies, and campaigns. The Service does not prioritise any impairment, disability or SEN over another.

Impartiality means...

- Richmond & Kingston SENDIASS does not stand to gain or lose whatever the outcomes of any discussions may be
- Not taking sides with anyone
- Providing factual, unbiased information and advice based on what the guidance and legislation says
- Providing children, young people or parent carers with enough information so they can make their own decisions, not telling them what to do

Working with children, young people and their families

When providing support we aim to show our impartiality by:

- Being clear that the role of Richmond & Kingston SENDIASS is to help individuals participate more fully in a child's/young person's education and to advise them on their rights, The Service will not advocate on their behalf or take sides with either them or the Local Authority
- Empowering children, young people or their parent carers to speak for themselves and make their own decisions, rather than pushing them towards a particular course of action
- Always respecting the decisions taken by those we support without making a judgement, irrespective of personal views as individuals
- Providing factual information and advice based on what the current guidance and legislation says, not offering our own opinions or reflecting local policy

Working with the Local Authority (LA), schools and other agencies

When working with the Local Authority, schools and other agencies, Richmond & Kingston SENDIASS aims to demonstrate impartiality by:

- Making it clear that the best educational outcomes for children/ young people with SEN and disabilities are the ultimate aims of the Service, and our role is to support individuals to achieve this
- Informing the LA, education settings or any other agency of the impartial nature of the Service, and making them aware of this policy

- Not allowing relationships with the LA, education settings or any other agency to affect the information or support the Service provides
- Being clear that the Service does not undertake LA functions, or act on behalf of the LA, educational settings or any other agency
- Being clear that the Service does not take sides with the LA, education setting or any other agency.

Sharing and reviewing the policy

- All staff and Volunteers receive a copy of the Impartiality Policy and it is explained to them
- The policy is shared with the Local Authority and other agencies so they are aware it exists and they understand it fully
- The policy is reviewed biannually and amendments agreed.