

Impartiality Policy

Central Bedfordshire SENDIASS is provided “in house” but operated “at arm’s length” from the Local Authority to ensure a totally impartial and unbiased service. Our service is managed by a Head of Service that does not have responsibility for the LA SEND Support Team or for any of the services which are likely to be specified as provision in Education Health and Care Plans.

What is our role?

Parents, Carers and Young people with Special Educational needs and/or disabilities will be given information, advice and support to enable them to understand options, make decisions and participate in assessment and planning about education, health and care needs. Their rights of appeal will be fully explained whenever appropriate. The information, advice and support will be provided impartially and will reflect current legislation, regulation and in particular the SEN Code of Practice 2014.

What does impartiality mean?

Impartiality means that the Central Bedfordshire SENDIASS will not take sides with anyone, and will provide factual information and advice based on SEN guidance and legislation. The service has no vested interest in the outcome of any case and will provide parents and young people with enough information so they can make their own decisions. The staff **do not** take part in any decision making process within the SEN procedures.

How do we maintain our impartiality with parents?

- CB SENDIASS: informs all parents/YP on first contact, of the impartial nature of the service.
- aim to empower parents/YP to make their own decisions and speak for themselves, not pushing them towards a particular action.
- will respect parents’/YP’s decisions without any judgement.
- provide factual information and advice based on SEN guidance and legislation, not personal opinions.

How do we maintain our impartiality with professionals?

Central Bedfordshire SENDIASS:

- make it clear that the child or young person is at the centre of all discussion, and the goal is to achieve the best educational outcome for the child/YP.
- inform all professionals of the impartiality of the service
- do not act on behalf of any other professionals
- operate at arm’s length from the local authority.
- are not influenced in any way by the Local Authority

How do we ensure our policy works well?

All staff and volunteers are informed of the policy and understand it

The policy is shared with the local authority.

The policy is reviewed annually.

The policy is available on our website

We ask parents/YP for their views on our service

Staff supervision is used to ensure that the principles set out in this policy are applied in practice

Policy created September 2016

Policy reviewed: August 2019

Next Review Date: August 2020