





**All 24 of these pupils are among 1.9 million young people in the UK who are labelled disabled, under the Disability Discrimination Act, and are entitled to inclusive education, under Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**

It is an international agreement between governments; a new (December 2006) Human Rights Treaty giving rights to disabled people around the world in all areas of life. Article 24 covers Education.

## Who is labelled disabled?

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 defines a disabled person as one who has “a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.” The Act also states that all schools must publish a Disability Equality Scheme and must make reasonable adjustments to avoid placing disabled pupils, actual or potential, at a disadvantage.

The UK government signed this Convention on 30th March 2007, indicating a commitment to abide by the rules set down in it. Legislation and policy guidelines, therefore, must support the human rights of disabled people. All service providers must ensure that disabled people are equally valued and respected.

It has often been assumed that non-disabled adults can make policy decisions affecting the lives of disabled children, without reference to the voice of special school survivors and other disabled adults and children. The message from disabled members of the education community is clear: Nothing about us without us.



Work with others to develop an inclusive learning environment that benefits all children. This will be easier if facilitated by:

- a 'can do' attitude
- a welcoming and supportive ethos
- forward planning
- strong leadership
- ongoing consultation with pupils and parents
- effective staff training
- good working relationship with outside agencies
- regular review and evaluation of reasonable adjustments

**Above all, keep asking: What are we doing to remove the barriers that disabled pupils face in our school?**

## Where can I find more information?

For more information on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities see [www.un.org/disabilities/](http://www.un.org/disabilities/)  
For more information on UK legislation see [http://83.137.212.42/SiteArchive/drc\\_gb/employers\\_and\\_service\\_provider/education/schools.aspx.html](http://83.137.212.42/SiteArchive/drc_gb/employers_and_service_provider/education/schools.aspx.html)  
For useful resources for schools please see overleaf.

**“Appropriate resources are vital for the learning and development of disabled children. The most essential resource is free and abundant in mainstream schools: non-disabled children.”** Micheline Mason