

9. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY TRIBUNAL

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal is an independent body that hears parents' appeals against LA decisions on Statutory Assessments and Statements.

South Gloucestershire LA want to work closely with parents of children with Special Educational Needs and the LA will keep you informed and explain why decisions have been made.

If you are not happy with a decision made by the LA please contact your Case Officer who will be happy to arrange a meeting with an Officer of the LA to discuss your concerns. You may find it useful to talk to someone from Supportive Parents.

In a small number of cases you may be unable to reach agreement with your child's school or the LA. An independent Disagreement Resolution Service is available to you to help parents, schools and the LA find agreed solutions. The LA will provide you with details when it is decided whether or not to proceed with a Statutory Assessment.

The LA aims to reach agreement whenever possible but if this is not possible parents may wish to use their right of appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal. Parents have two months from receiving the written decision of the LA to make an appeal. Appealing to the Tribunal does not prevent you from pursuing Disagreement Resolution at the same time.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal offers advice to parents and can be contacted at:

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal
SEN Appeals
Mowden Hall
Staindrop Road
Darlington
Co Durham
DL3 9BG

Tel: 01325 392555

Fax: 01325 391080

Email: tribunalqueries@tribunals.gsi.gov.uk

Full details of the procedures can be found in a booklet entitled "Special Educational Needs Tribunal - How to appeal," which can be obtained from the address above. Information is free and the Tribunal can also send you a helpful DVD.