



The wider context of inclusion

Disability Discrimination Act 1995

This legislation established rights for disabled people to have the same access to 'goods and services' as any other member of the public.

Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001

This requires schools and youth services to make 'reasonable adjustments' to ensure that disabled pupils are not disadvantaged.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

Article 31 states that parties should recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

Article 23 also states that parties should recognise that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.

Children Act 1989

The Children Act recognises that children's needs for: 'good quality play opportunities change as they grow up but they need such opportunities to reach and maintain their optimum development and well being'. Local authorities are required to provide services for disabled children which are designed to 'minimise the effects of the child's disabilities and give them the opportunity to lead lives that are as normal as possible'.