

Greater Merseyside Position Statement on Inclusive Education

This statement was developed by the Merseyside Authorities. Wirral fully supports this statement.

The position statements support two of the Council's key indicators.

Key Statement Three - Providing Educational and Cultural Opportunities for All.

Key Statement Seven - Supporting and Protecting Vulnerable People.

Position Statement

Greater Merseyside LEAs are committed to working with each other, and with all other relevant stakeholder groups, in order to promote inclusive education across the region. This commitment is underpinned by the following shared understanding of the meaning of inclusion.

Promoting inclusive education involves identifying and removing barriers to the *'presence, participation and achievement'* of *all* children, young people and adults. We believe that this commitment embraces a fundamental responsibility to place a particular emphasis on those learners who may be at risk of underachievement, marginalisation or exclusion.

'Presence' is concerned with where learners are educated, and whether they attend regularly and arrive punctually. In line with Government policy, we believe that wherever possible learners should be enabled to receive their education in a mainstream setting.

'Participation' is concerned with the quality of learners' educational experiences, whether they feel involved and valued, and the quality of services received by their carers/parents. We believe therefore that learners' own views and opinions, and those of their parents/carers, should form an essential part of any judgements made about the quality of their participation.

'Achievement' is concerned with learning outcomes across the whole curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom. We believe, therefore, that achievement should not be judged solely on the basis of test and examination results.

It is acknowledged that the development of inclusive policies and practices is a complex and long-term social process. It is a process that needs to engage actively all of those involved in the education of children, young people and adults. In particular, it is recognised that promoting inclusion should be an aspiration for the *'whole LEA'* with all individuals, services and units within the organisation understanding the contribution that they make.

Finally, the Greater Merseyside LEAs are committed to evaluating progress towards more inclusive policies and practices. We believe that such progress should be judged in terms of the impact of our policies and practices on the presence, participation and achievement of all learners.