



Somerset SENDIAS
Special Educational Needs and Disability
Information, Advice and Support (0-25)

**A free impartial service for children and young people with SEND
(aged 0 – 25), and their parent/carers**

Impartiality Policy

Introduction

1. Somerset SENDIAS is a confidential and impartial service for all children and young people with SEND (aged 0 - 25), and their parent and carers.
2. The role of Somerset SENDIAS is to make sure children, young people and their parent and carers have access to confidential and impartial information, advice and support, so they can make informed decisions about their own or their child's SEND.

Section 1 – The importance of Somerset SENDIAS acting impartially.

3. The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2015) states that “Local authorities must arrange for children and young people for whom it is responsible, and the parents of children for whom it is responsible to be provided with advice and information about matters relating to the special educational needs of the children or young people concerned.

A local authority in England must arrange for children and young people in its area with a disability, and the parents of children in its area with a disability, to be provided with advice and information about matters relating to the disabilities of the children or young people concerned”. (Section 32, Children and Families Act (2014))

4. Somerset SENDIAS remains impartial regardless of the outcome to any discussions or support involving young people, parents and carers, education, health and other outside agencies.

Section 2 - How Somerset SENDIAS maintains impartiality.

5. Our leaflets, website and publicity materials will provide accurate, neutral and impartial information based on SEND legislation and guidance in plain English and other languages.
6. When working with children, young people, their parent and carers and professionals the SENDIAS team will inform them of the impartial nature of the service.



Somerset SENDIAS

Special Educational Needs and Disability
Information, Advice and Support (0-25)

7. Somerset SENDIAS acknowledge and respects every person as an individual and will endeavour to be responsive, courteous and helpful to everyone who contacts the service.
8. The service will not take sides or favour one view over another and is committed to ensuring that all available facts, truths, opinions and perceptions are respected and shared openly.
9. The service will maintain impartiality whether working with children, young people, their parent and carers or professionals and other agencies.
10. Somerset SENDIAS aims to empower children, young people and their parent and carers to speak for themselves and make their own decisions.

Section 3 - How Somerset SENDIAS maintains its impartiality when dealing with local authorities, educational settings or any other agencies.

11. Somerset SENDIAS has an identity, website and logo which are separate from the local authority.
12. Somerset SENDIAS is jointly commissioned by the Local Authority and Somerset Integrated Care Board (ICB) and NHS Foundation Trust.
13. The service does not act on behalf of Somerset Council, educational settings or any other agency.
14. Somerset SENDIAS does not take sides with young people, parents and carers, Somerset Council, any educational settings or any other agency.
15. Staff and volunteers undertake on-going training through independent sources, such as the National Information, Advice and Support Network, Council for Disabled Children and IPSEA.
16. The service is located separately from the Statutory SEND Casework Team and County Hall.
17. The service ensures that confidential casework files are securely held.

Somerset SENDIAS

The Hollies Children's Centre, South Street, Taunton, TA1 3AG
01823 355578 SomersetSENDIAS@somerset.gov.uk www.somersetsend.org.uk



Somerset SENDIAS
Special Educational Needs and Disability
Information, Advice and Support (0-25)

Section 4 - Ensuring the effectiveness of the policy.

19. All staff and volunteers receive a copy of the SENDIAS Impartiality Policy.
20. All staff and volunteers within Somerset SENDIAS follow the guidance in the Impartiality Policy. This is part of induction and on-going training and is monitored through supervision.

Section 5 – Contact details

Somerset SENDIAS
The Hollies Children's Centre
South Street
Taunton
TA1 3AG

01823 355578
sometersendias@somerset.gov.uk
www.sometersend.org.uk

Section 6 – Administration

Date written: September 2023
Review date: September 2024

To request this Policy in Easy Read, Braille, Large print or Translated into other languages, please contact Somerset SENDIAS on 01823 355578 or email somersendias@somerset.gov.uk

END.