

Auxiliary Aids and Equipment

The Equality Act 2010 states that both schools and Local Authorities have a duty to provide auxiliary aids and equipment. Auxiliary aids could be a teaching assistant or equipment that helps the child within school, ensuring education is accessible.

In Wakefield, schools use their allocated SEND budget to buy equipment for children when the cost is less than £1000. When the cost is more than £1000 (e.g. FM systems, specialist seating, wheel chair) then the professional who determines the child require the equipment must make the request to the Local Authority. This professional could be a Physiotherapist, an Occupational Therapist or a specialist teacher such as a Teacher of the Deaf. A child or young person does not need to have a statement or Educational Health Care Plan to have equipment bought by the Local Authority.

Equipment purchased by the school remains the property of the school. When a child moves to a different setting, it is the new school's responsibility to make sure they acquire the correct equipment. Equipment purchased by the Local Authority will remain with the child whilst they are in education.