HERE ARE OUR TOP TIPS FOR SCHOOLS:

- Ensure adequate space in classroom for pupil and their equipment and mobility aids.
- Sit left-handers by another left-hander or at the end of the table.
- Allow pupils with mobility difficulties or complex medical conditions to leave class slightly earlier or later than the other pupils to avoid negotiating busy corridors.
- Plan in advance for school visits with regard to accessibility and participation, and provision of medication.
- Be aware that some disabilities can be invisible but can impact on the child’s time at school.
- Adopt a sensitive approach to pupils with a physical disability in all areas of the curriculum.
- Be aware that pupils with a disability or medical condition may need to balance educational with medical needs (such as regular physiotherapy and hospital appointments), so may require support to catch up with missed lessons.
- Consider reasonable adjustments to uniform requirements such as track suit bottoms on PE days.
- See the pupil first not the disability- support them to achieve their full potential.
- Remind pupils about good seating (draw chair under table, sit squarely to desk with bottom to back of chair and feet flat to floor).

The Physical Disability Team

Advisory Teachers
Jessica Falconer- Full time
Gemma Scott- Full time
Sue Clark- Part time

Specialist Practitioner
Nikki Deane

SEN Specialist Support
Children’s and Adults Services
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Who are we?
We are a team of Advisory Teachers, plus a Specialist Practitioner, who offer advice and support for the inclusion of school children (from Nursery to Year 13) with a physical disability or complex medical condition.

We also offer short term advice for pupils who are experiencing difficulties with fine and gross motor skills or with handwriting.

Our team supports pupils with a wide range of disabilities and complex medical needs including Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, heart conditions, tumours, leg length discrepancy, Talipes, small stature, Sickle Cell Anaemia and Cystic Fibrosis.

WHAT WE DO:

We assess pupils and provide recommendations and/or reports (where required) to support them in school.

We advise on the following:
- Classroom and playground organisation and management to promote inclusion.
- Differentiation of fine and gross motor tasks and materials to ensure access to the curriculum.

We provide information on the educational implications of medical conditions and physical disabilities for school staff and parents.

We contribute to statutory assessments, annual reviews, transfer reviews and TAC meetings

We support pupils during key transitions e.g. primary to secondary school

We complete onward referrals as appropriate.

We contribute to individual health care plans in collaboration with health colleagues.

HOW WE DO IT:

- We liaise with parents, with other professionals in education and health and with charities.
- We monitor pupils regularly in school and provide outcome-based targets and strategies
- We provide INSET on topics such as handwriting, fine and gross motor skills, disability and individual medical conditions
- We facilitate the loan of specialist equipment.
- We advise on typing and keyboard recognition programmes.

Our Specialist Practitioner can deliver short term targeted interventions including:
- Post-operative mobility work,
- Exercise sessions to develop gross and fine motor skills,
- Dressing and self-help skills,
- Touch typing/ keyboarding.

Individual personalised photobooks can be offered such as 'All about my Cystic Fibrosis, 'My dressing skills book'.