

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND
DISABILITY (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2005**

S.I. 2005 1117

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE ORDER

Part II: Special Educational Needs

Chapter I of Part III: Schools.

9. This Chapter places new duties on Boards and schools (including independent schools) in Northern Ireland. The new duties are explained in the commentary on Articles 13 - 26. What follows is an overview of the new provisions:
- A duty not to treat pupils who have a disability less favourably, without justification, for a reason which relates to their disability;
 - A duty to make reasonable adjustments so that pupils who have a disability are not put at a substantial disadvantage compared to pupils who do not have a disability; and
 - A duty to plan and make progress in increasing accessibility to schools' premises and the curriculum, and in improving ways in which information provided in writing to pupils who do not have a disability is provided to pupils who have a disability.