

NEURODIVERSITY



DO YOU TEACH NEURODIVERSE STUDENTS?

SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, OR DIFFERENCES, IS AN OVERARCHING TERM FOR A NUMBER OF ASSOCIATED LEARNING DIFFERENCES. THE TERM 'NEURODIVERSITY' IS INCREASINGLY USED AS IT FOCUSES ON THE POSITIVE QUALITIES OF THINKING AND LEARNING DIFFERENTLY.

ALL CLASSROOMS ARE NEURODIVERSE AND WILL INCLUDE LEARNERS WHO LEARN DIFFERENTLY. ALL TEACHERS WILL ENCOUNTER PUPILS WHO ARE GIFTED AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICULAR LEARNING CHALLENGES; SOME PUPILS HAVE BOTH GIFTS AND CHALLENGES. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT TEACHING MEETS THE NEEDS OF ALL LEARNERS, USING APPROPRIATE METHODS TO SUPPORT WEAKNESSES WHILE ALSO RECOGNISING AND DEVELOPING STRENGTHS AND ABILITIES.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT A LEARNER DOES NOT NEED TO HAVE AN OFFICIAL 'DIAGNOSIS' IN ORDER TO RECEIVE SUPPORT IN THE CLASSROOM.

"SOMETIMES IT IS THE PEOPLE NO ONE CAN IMAGINE ANYTHING OF WHO DO THE THINGS NO ONE CAN IMAGINE." – ALAN TURING, CREATOR OF THE FIRST COMPUTER USED TO BREAK CODES DURING WW II.