

Impartiality Policy



**BFG Parent
Partnership
Service**

All local authorities in UK have a statutory duty to ensure that a Parent Partnership Service (PPS) is provided. Although in BFG, services are not legally bound by UK legislation, they work in the spirit of the Act.

The SEN Code of Practice 2001 sets out the government's expectation for the minimum standards to be met. To ensure parental confidence in the PPS, the government encourages local authorities to ensure that PPSs are run at arms length so that information and advice given to parents is impartial.

The term 'impartiality' is defined as:

- ⇒ Fair; neither partial nor prejudiced
- ⇒ Not favouring one person more than another
- ⇒ Free from undue bias or preconceived opinions
- ⇒ Independent and open-minded

BFG Parent Partnership Service must ensure that service families and entitled UKBCs are provided with 'accurate and neutral information on their rights, roles and responsibilities within the SEN process and on the wide range of options available to them to make informed decisions' (SEN CoP 2001, para 2.21)

BFG Parent Partnership Service will be impartial in all its dealings, not favouring any person or party more than another. It will be fair and unbiased in presenting factual information and guidance in order to bring about a resolution to issues or provide information.

The impartiality of the BFG Parent Partnership Service is demonstrated by:

BFG Parent Partnership Service is part of the Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) based in Upavon, Wiltshire and therefore operates independently from SCE in BFG. The Parent Partnership Officer is line managed firstly by the SO1 Safeguarding, J1 Branch, UKSC and secondly by the Head of Service, CEAS.

The Parent Partnership Service offices are located within J1, UKSC, JHQ, Rheindahlen. Due to the geographical area covered by the service it is unrealistic for most parents to travel to Rheindahlen and alternative arrangements are made for the PPO to meet with parents. The PPO is able to travel to each of the garrisons,

as and when required, to meet with parents either at home, at school, or in a neutral setting if requested.

The BFG Parent Partnership Service has its own database; paper records are stored in locked cabinets and only accessible by the service.

The impartiality of the BFG Parent Partnership Service is further demonstrated by:

- ⇒ Reflecting the perspective and wishes of parents;
- ⇒ Being seen not to have a vested interest in the outcome of any discussions;
- ⇒ Ensuring the PPO is clear that when attending decision-making meetings whether their role is to:
 - support or represent an individual family;
 - contribute to discussions on strategic issues;
 - participate in making decisions.

Monitoring impartiality

The BFG Parent Partnership Service has a Parent Partnership Steering Group who meet on a regular termly basis. Part of the responsibility of the PPSG is to monitor the independence and impartiality of the service.