



Individual responsibility

Focus 3 – Individual responsibility

Australian Professional Standards for Teachers
Professional Knowledge 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 2.5
Professional Engagement 7.1 7.2

Responsibility is the willingness to accept the professional ethic, standard or legislative requirement relating to education or the teaching profession.

Individual responsibility means that the highest standard of professional behaviour is met and that professional judgement is exercised in line with the standards or ethics of the profession. Responsibility implies that when the professional does not meet this obligation or ethic in some way, they will accept it is their role to address the issue. Responsibility would include equitable treatment of all students, including students with disability or additional learning needs.

Accountability is the obligation of an individual or organisation to account for its activities, accept responsibility for them, and to disclose the results in a transparent manner.

1. Look at each of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

<http://www.aitsl.edu.au/australian-professional-standards-for-teachers>

Take one of the standards and discuss with a colleague responsibility and what it might mean for your practice for students with disability and additional learning needs.

Eg Professional knowledge

Teacher Standard Number 1

Know students and how they learn

- 1.1 The physical, social and intellectual development and characteristics of students

Example – I need to find out more about communication disorders.

- 1.5 Differentiate teaching to meet the specific learning needs of students across the full range of abilities .



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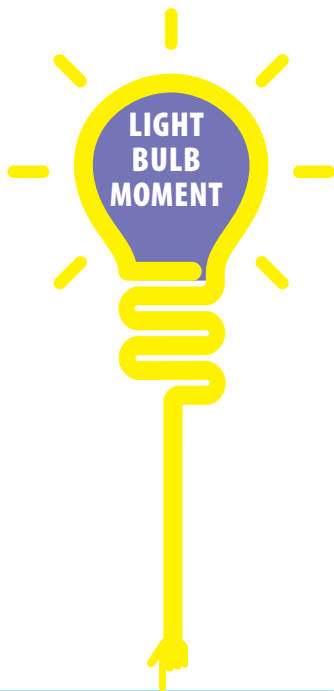
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Role disagreement or lack of clarity can be a problem for everyone.

How could you initiate a discussion to help solve the differences that you perceive?

2. Responsibility - how do you see it working?

A student with disability and additional learning needs is not learning in your school and not behaving well. They are also receiving some 'attitude' from other students and perhaps giving it back. You could choose a specific teacher support card to assist.

- List what you are prepared to take responsibility for.

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- List what the students involved should take responsibility for in your estimation.

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- List what families of the students and the community take responsibility for.

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- List what other staff (including administration) take responsibility for.

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3. In your classroom or your site, what can you as an individual or classroom teacher decide on and set in motion? Try to extend this list. Can you decide who to see and what is taught? Name 10 things you affect, control or impact upon.

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Possible themes:

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| Attitude | Participation in professional learning |
| Approach to students | Knowledge of staff roles |
| Classroom environment | Healthy habits |
| Time mix between class and staff rooms | Staff collegiality |

4. Copy the Infographic from the resource.

Think about the information and its impact on responsibility of teaching as a profession. Circle anything that surprises you.

Remember these are national figures on gradual population movements or expectations in society.

Add anything you have noticed in terms of trends for your own classes or school in relation to students with disability and additional learning needs.

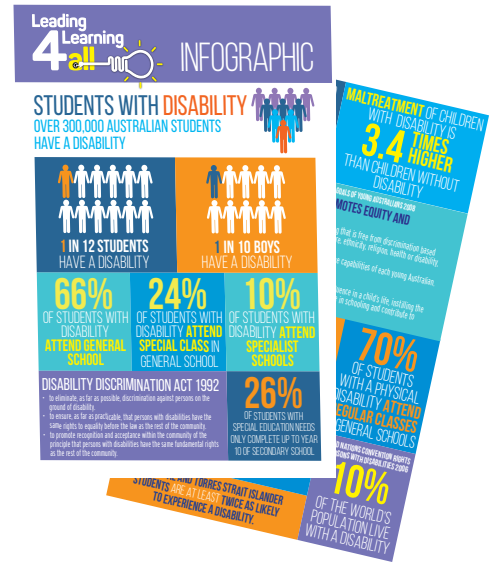
In discussion with colleagues, identify the impact for your context.

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5. A child in your class with a specific learning difficulty has family who are not engaged in their learning. Look at the appropriate teacher School Support Cards and select three useful strategies that might work to engage them.

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Professional Judgement
The process of forming an opinion or evaluation by conforming to an ethical standard of a profession requiring specialised knowledge, skills and experience.

