



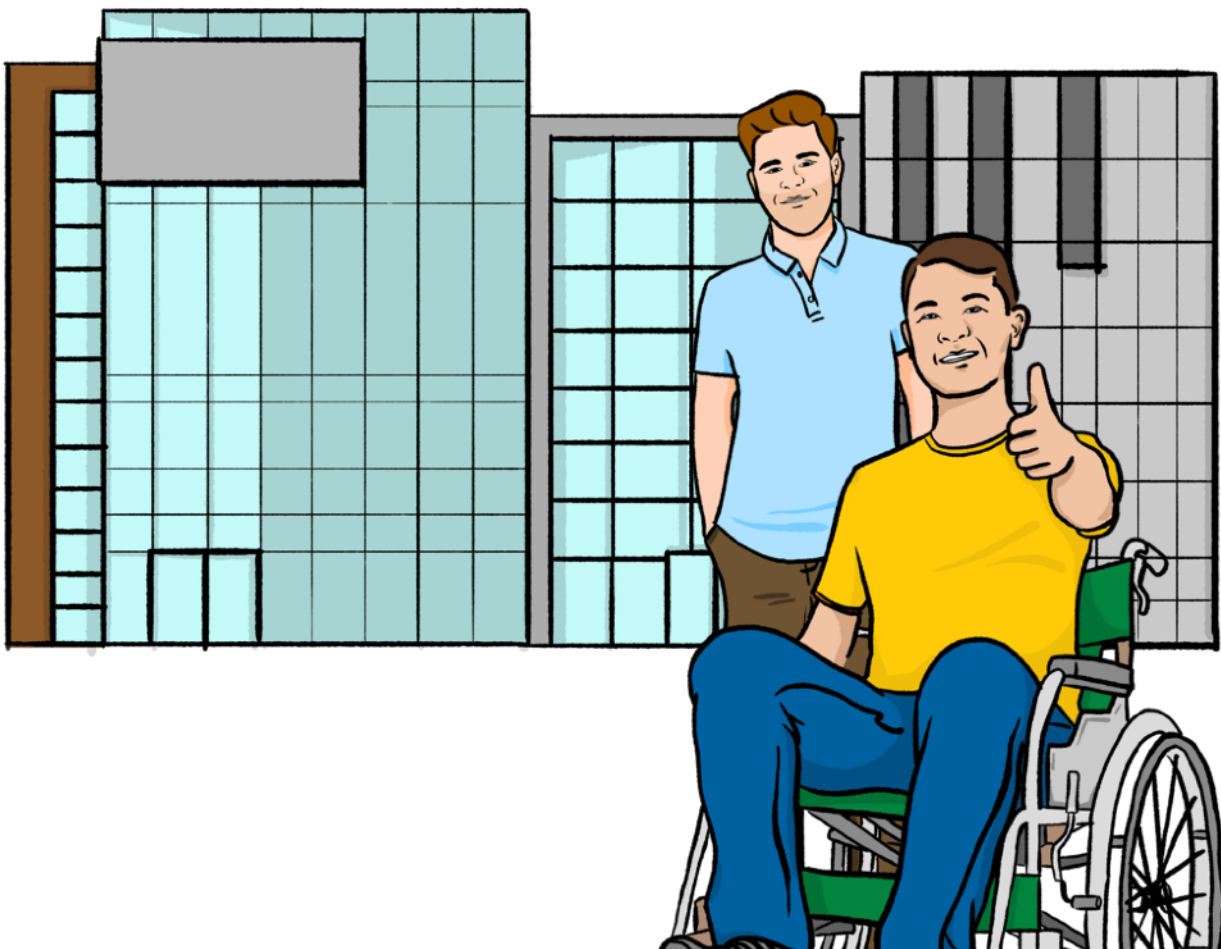
General
Osteopathic
Council



Easy
Read

Supporting students with a disability or health condition

Information for osteopathy schools



Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



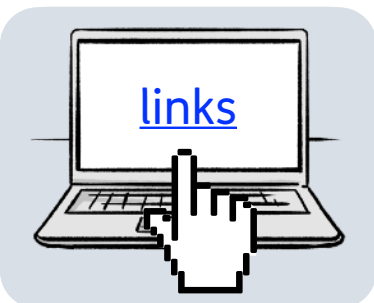
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet



This booklet is from the General Osteopathic Council.



It is about how **osteopathy** schools should support students with a disability or health condition.



Osteopathy is a type of healthcare treatment that involves stretching and massaging a person's muscles or joints.



A healthcare professional who treats people using osteopathy is called an **osteopath**.

About us

At the General Osteopathic Council, we:



- Write rules and guidelines on how to be a good osteopath.



- Make sure osteopaths follow these rules and guidelines.



- Check that osteopathy schools are teaching students well.



- Make sure osteopaths keep learning and improving as they work.

Osteopathy schools



Osteopathy schools teach students how to be an osteopath.



Lots of people with a disability or health condition can be osteopaths.



We want osteopathy schools to support students with a disability or health condition.

The law



Osteopathy schools must understand laws about treating people with disabilities and health conditions fairly - like the Equality Act 2010.

The Equality Act explains that osteopathy schools should:



- Not treat a student unfairly because of their disability or health condition.



- Work toward and speak up about treating everyone fairly.

This involves helping people with disabilities and people without disabilities work together.



- Protect students from all types of **discrimination**.

Discrimination is another word for when you are treated badly or unfairly because of a disability or health condition.

The Equality Act also explains that osteopathy schools should:



- Make **reasonable adjustments** for students with a disability or health condition.

Reasonable adjustments are changes that organisations and services can make so that disabled people can take part like everybody else.

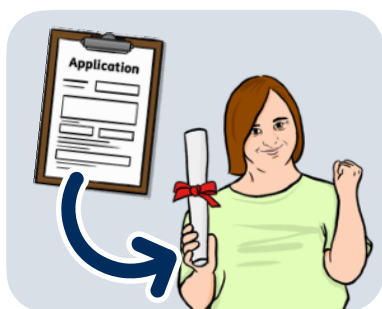


- Make sure students with a disability or health condition can take part in all tests.



- Help school staff understand how to best support and teach students with a disability or health condition.

What schools should do



Osteopathy schools should support students with a disability or health condition from when they apply to when they finish.

Being prepared



Osteopathy schools should already be **accessible** in some basic ways.

Accessible means easy and suitable for people with different needs.



Osteopathy schools can do this by making changes to their buildings and ways of teaching, like:

- Having disabled toilets.



- Offering accessible equipment and technology.

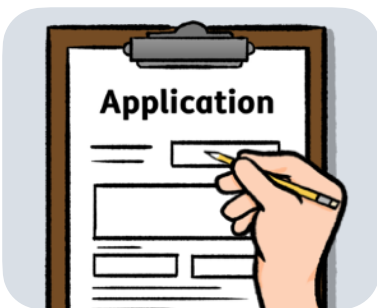


Osteopathy schools can also share school information in accessible ways, like in Easy Read.



Osteopathy schools should always be checking that they are accessible and improving if they need to.

Choosing students



Students have to apply for a place at an osteopathy school.

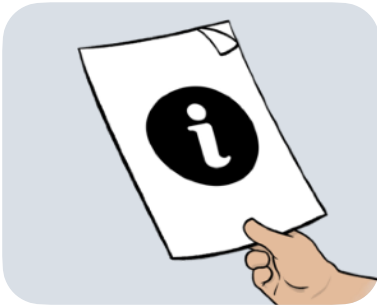


The osteopathy school then decides which students can have a place.



Osteopathy schools should make it clear that students with a disability or health condition are welcome to apply.

When choosing students, osteopathy schools should:



- Share information about what support is available for students with a disability or health condition.



- Make sure students with a disability or health condition feel comfortable with sharing information about their disability or condition when applying.



- Think about reasonable adjustments for students with a disability or health condition early on when they first apply.



- Make good correct decisions about whether someone with a disability or health condition can safely be an osteopath.

When choosing students, osteopathy schools should also:



- Check whether students with a disability or health condition need support with applying or taking part in interviews.



- Ask students with a disability or health condition the same questions as other students.

When choosing students, osteopathy schools should **not**:



- Say no to a student because they have a disability or health condition without doing the right checks first.



- Make guesses about what a student can or cannot do because of their disability or health condition.

Knowing student needs



Osteopathy schools should think about reasonable adjustments early on when students first apply.



Schools should talk to students with a disability or health condition about what kind of reasonable adjustments they may need.

Osteopathy schools should:



- Involve trained professionals or experts in checking the needs of students.



- Use health **assessments** if they need to.

An **assessment** is when you meet with a health professional to work out what care or support you need.

Osteopathy schools should also:



- Be prepared to support all types of disabilities or health conditions, including mental health conditions.



- Make sure students with a disability or health condition understand:
 - Who will see their health information.
 - How their health information will be kept and used.

Making reasonable adjustments

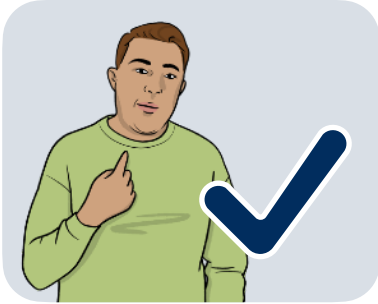


Osteopathy schools should talk to students with a disability or health condition about reasonable adjustments.



But they do not have to make every reasonable adjustment that a student suggests.

When deciding whether to make a reasonable adjustment, osteopathy schools should think about:



- Whether the reasonable adjustment will help the student.

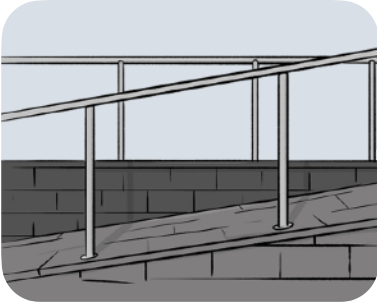


- How much the reasonable adjustment will cost, and whether someone else could help pay for it.



- How the reasonable adjustment might affect other students.

There are many types of reasonable adjustment an osteopathy school could make, like:



- Changing a building - like adding ramps or making lighting less bright.



- Changing the way staff teach - like recording classes.



- Offering extra support from a trained person.



- Allowing some requests that a student might need - like breaks in a lesson or more time to finish tests.



- Offering equipment - like a screen reader.

Other reasonable adjustments might include:



- Helping a student get the items they need - like paying for textbooks so that they do not have to travel to the library.



- Changing tests to suit a student's needs.

What the test is asking will not change, but the **way** it is asked can be changed.



Osteopathy schools should make sure that students with a disability or health condition know how to complain if they need to.

Taking a break



A student with a disability or health condition may have to take a break from school if their health gets worse.



They may find it hard to return to school after this.

Osteopathy schools should:



- Have a plan that explains how they will support students when they return to school after a break.



- Make sure it is safe for the student to return to school.

Finishing school



When a student finishes osteopathy school, they get a **qualification**.

The **qualification** is a document that says a person is allowed to be an osteopath and can safely treat patients.

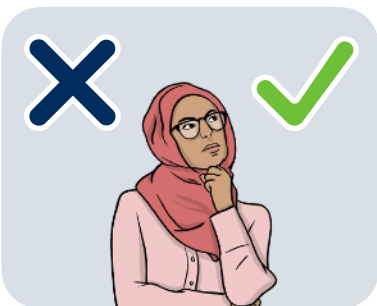
A student may finish school without getting a qualification if they:



- Do not do well enough in classes and tests.

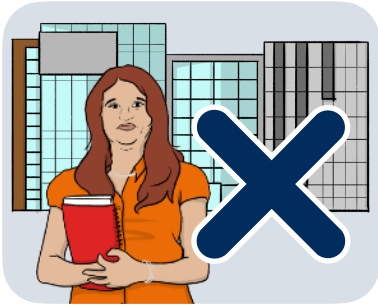


- Cannot be an osteopath safely.



Schools must safely decide whether a student with a disability or health condition gets the qualification.

When a student might have to leave school



Sometimes, a student with a disability or health condition may be unable to carry on at osteopathy school.



This can happen even when the school has made all reasonable adjustments to help the student.



The student may decide to leave osteopathy school on their own.



Sometimes the school needs to think about asking the student to leave.

When deciding whether a student with a disability or health condition needs to leave school, osteopathy schools should:



- Think about whether the student can safely be an osteopath.



- Look at how often the student is coming to classes.



- Check if the student is handing in their classwork late.



- Check if the student works well in classes and with staff.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:

www.osteopathy.org.uk

You can contact us by:

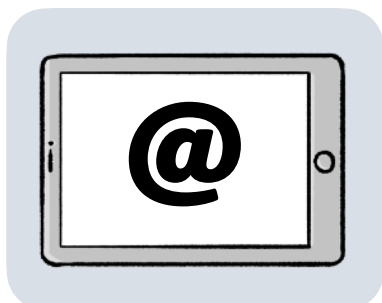


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