Good afternoon

I would like to bring your attention to the **New Arrangements for the Provision of Dispute Avoidance & Resolution Service (DARS)**

Thank you.

**New Arrangements for the Provision of Dispute Avoidance & Resolution Service**

The Education Authority (EA) has transferred provision of the Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Service (DARS) to Global Mediation, an independent organisation. This change in provision is in line with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, which requires EA to commission an independent DARS.

DARS works with schools and parents/guardians to avoid and resolve disagreements in relation to special education needs and provision, within an independent, confidential and informal forum.

The legislation also requires the introduction of a new Mediation Service for those who intend to appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal. This will be introduced at a later stage when the necessary regulations are approved.

Further information on DARS is available [here](#).

If you wish to access DARS please contact Global Mediation at:

Global Mediation  
55-59 Adelaide Street  
Belfast BT2 8FE  
T: (028) 9072 6060  
E: DARS@globalmediation.co.uk  
W: [www.globalmediation.co.uk/DARS](http://www.globalmediation.co.uk/DARS).

If you have any queries regarding a current DARS case which pre-dates 1st September 2019, please contact 028 7186 3520 or 028 3831 4465.

EA is responsible for managing the Global Mediation contract. Should you have a specific query relating to the new service, please send an e-mail to [cyps-send@eani.org.uk](mailto:cyps-send@eani.org.uk).