Interview Synthesis Domain One

# Equity through access

Questions on the use of ethics and reflective practice were posed to interview candidates and were designed to elicit conversation about the values and attitudes they needed to maintain and foster as a specialist teacher of children who are blind or have low vision and diverse learning needs.

## Key Words

Key words reiterated during interviews were:

* Respect,
* Empathy,
* Empowerment.

Understandings of self in their core ethical and moral world underpinned the application of ethics in professional practice.

## Key Codes of Ethics

Specialist teachers of vision are governed by a number of value and principle based codes such as:

* NZTC
* EIAANZ
* Early Childhood Code of Practice
* BLENNZ
* SPEVI
* The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
* The Convention on the rights of Person with Disabilities

## Additional Codes

These codes are then integrated with other codes such as those of:

* Familes,
* Local schools and centres,
* Specialist therapy groups,
* Other teaching specialists,
* Medical specialists
* Social workers and Lawyers.

The specialist teachers interviewed were all employed by BLENNZ and are also governed by BLENNZ policy and practices.

## An ethical dilemma

All specialty teachers of vision had experienced ethical dilemmas. An example offered was “How much information to share with a child with a degenerative eye condition?” or “ How to resolve debate of becoming a print or a braille user?”

## Key Values

Key values articulated by all specialty teachers of vision were:

1. The student must remain at the heart of all discussion and decision making
2. A family centered model must be followed, although this was often the source of most ethical dilemmas.
3. The belief that all learners have a right to develop to the best of their potential in environments that best meet their goals.
4. Reciprocal relationships: with learners and also with their families.
5. Trans- disciplinary collaborative relationships with other professionals.
6. Reflective Practice.
7. Well resourced natural environments.
8. Make learning **fun.**