Complex and diverse, special educational needs and inclusion can be a difficult area of study to approach for undergraduate students. Understanding the current context of SEN and inclusion means getting to grips with an often perplexing mix of social, political, ideological, educational and personal perspectives. This book explores and critically examines the field, providing a detailed introduction to the topic for students - helping them to develop understanding, without assuming any prior knowledge.

Section one defines the concepts of SEN and disability and how the concepts have been defined through ideological models that have developed over time. It examines provision for SEN across the UK, and looks at how attitudes of teachers, parents and children have affected inclusion. Section two explores the historical development of SEN internationally, including a comparative look at legislation and practice in England and a number of other countries. Section three details how SEN practice in England works, including the Every Child Matters agenda and the roles and responsibilities of education, health and social care professionals.

Each chapter includes short case studies, points for reflection, student activities and suggestions for further reading.

Alan Hodkinson is principal lecturer in education research at Liverpool John Moores University, where Philip Vickerman is Professor of Inclusive Education and Learning, and Head of Research for Physical Education, Sport, Dance and Outdoor Education.
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