Welsh Parliament

Children, Young People and Education Committee

**Do disabled children and young people have equal access to education and childcare?**

1. This document has been prepared in Microsoft Word. An explainer document is available [[in Microsoft Word format](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsenedd.wales%2Fmedia%2Fqz5haotp%2Fword-accessibility-options.docx&data=05%7C01%7CRhayna.Mann2%40senedd.wales%7C6dca2be09fd34b7e7c1608dadddef418%7C38dc5129340c45148a044e8ef2771564%7C0%7C0%7C638066246888773471%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=57vx9HAQRv4hP188X3tjqIEY5nnVS7m2GcYry9LIOfQ%3D&reserved=0)] if you need any help to use the ‘Read aloud’ function, or to change the page background colours, text sizes or text colour

## We are the Children, Young People and Education Committee at the Welsh Parliament. We are a cross party group of Members who work together to look at the work of the Welsh Government and other Welsh public bodies. We make recommendations of things we would like to see changed or improved. While we can’t make these changes ourselves, the Welsh Government has to consider our recommendations and decide whether to accept them or not.

Our next piece of work will be looking at whether disabled and neurodivergent children and young people have equal access to education and childcare settings. Our work will include physical and sensory disabilities, along with additional learning needs and neurodivergent conditions. It is looking at pre-school childcare provision and compulsory school settings (ages between 0 and 16.)

Some of the things we are interested in hearing about include:

* Are disabled and neurodivergent children and young people able to access everything their school or childcare offers?
* Are disabled and neurodivergent children and young people excluded from any part of their education because of their disability or because they are neurodivergent?
* Have disabled and neurodivergent children and young people been discriminated against because of their disability or because they are neurodivergent?
* What impact do these issues have on disabled and neurodivergent children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing and how well they do at school or nursery?
* What are the barriers for schools and childcare providers in providing inclusive and accessible education?
* How well do schools or childcare providers talk to disabled and neurodivergent children and young people, and their families and keep them informed or include them in decisions and choices?
* Do disabled and neurodivergent children and young people and their families feel they get the same choices as other children, young people and their families?
* Is there good provision for different types of disability?

We will be collecting information in different ways.

We will be holding oral evidence sessions, where we ask questions of people during a Committee meeting. This is where we often hear from organisations.

We will also be going on visits across Wales to meet people where they live and to hear directly about their experiences.

We also collect evidence in other formats. This often takes the form of people sending information in writing that can be sent to us by email. We can also accept other types of evidence, such as videos. Please email us at seneddchildren@senedd.wales

We want to make sure that we are being as inclusive and accessible as possible. We are open to your ideas about how you would like to share your views with us. Please contact us and we can have a chat about the best way for you to get involved.

We also want to hear from you if you feel we have created any inadvertent barriers to you being involved. We want to make sure we are being as inclusive and accessible as possible, and if this isn’t happening, we want to hear how we can change this.

We will be collecting information over the next few months, over the summer and into the autumn. The deadline for providing information to us is **Friday 29 September.** All the information will be used to help us to ask questions of the Welsh Government at the end of the this piece of work. Your information will help us create ideas for what changes we want to see happen.

As a Committee we can’t get involved with individual cases, but your experiences can help shape changes across Wales.

We look forward to hearing from you.