

Schools White Paper

May 2026



Opening

The Leeds Parent Carer Forum hosted two online sessions for Leeds parents and carers specifically to discuss the Schools White Paper and SEND Reform Consultation. This is alongside a Padlet (online message board) to provide our families with the consultation documents and to gather the views of our parents and carers.

They also drew on our collective experience as a parent carer forum and all the engagement we have had with local parents and carers over the course of the last few years via:

- School SEND coffee mornings.
- PCF hosted workshops.
- PCF hosted coffee mornings and afternoon teas.
- Local Offer drop-in events.

The Leeds Parent Carer Forum have 664 registered members.

Opportunity

Parents and carers broadly support the aims of the SEND reforms (earlier help, better inclusion), but feel the proposals are too vague and lack clear delivery plans, with concerns about insufficient funding, workforce capacity and loss of specialist expertise.

There is little confidence that mainstream schools can meet more complex needs without major investment, with worries about underfunding, staff pressures, inflexible systems and unclear access to specialist support. Concerns also centre on new support plans, particularly around eligibility, accountability and whether legal rights may be weakened.

Overall, families are calling for stronger accountability, clearer safeguards and better long-term outcomes, especially improved post-16 provision, life skills and mental health support, warning that without these, reforms are unlikely to deliver real change.



Obligation



Outcome

A detailed report has been shared nationally with the Government and will be considered as part of the consultation process for the Schools White Paper.