

Schools White Paper

May 2026

Opening

The Voice, Influence and Change Team asked young people what they think about new ideas for schools.

The Government wants to:

- Change how schools support children
- Help children with SEND get better support

These are just ideas, and the voice of young people will share what happens next.

55 young people from 5 settings took part in the consultation.

- Leeds SEND Youth Council.
- The Bridge, East SILC.
- Ralph Thoresby School.
- Future Steps, Broomfield South SILC.
- Coop Academy.



Opportunity

What young people thought of the proposed changes?

👍 Liked

- Teachers getting SEND training
- More help in school
- Inclusion bases (extra support in school)
- More children getting help earlier

😟 Not sure about

- How will it all work?
- What will change in school?
- What are “layers of support”?
- How will new plans work?

😟 Worries

- Not getting enough help
- Losing EHCP support
- Losing specialist schools
- Things not being fair
- Being treated the same as others with different needs

Young people said:

- Change is needed
- But it must be clear, fair and safe
- And young people must be heard



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.