

My Rights, My Say

Children's Views service



Would it be useful to have independent support to help children with additional support needs have their say when decisions are being made about their education and support? If so, **My Rights, My Say Children's Views service** may be able to help.

In Scotland, every child has the right to additional support for learning to help them get the most out of school.

For more info email:
info@enquire.org.uk

Children aged 12–15 with additional support needs have even more rights to ensure they are involved decisions about their support.

For more info visit:
www.enquire.org.uk/parents/rights

My Rights, My Say supports children and adults to make these rights a reality.

Children who do not want to or are unable to use their rights themselves still have the right to be involved in decisions about their support in school. My Rights, My Say Children's Views service can help with this.

How can the Children's Views service support the involvement of children in decisions about their education and support?

The service can work with children who are aged 12–15 who have or may have additional support needs to help make sure their views are heard in formal processes, like assessments, planning or sorting out disagreements. The service is separate from school, the local authority and the child's family. This can be important as it gives a child space separate from others involved in their education to think about what they want to say.

The Children's Views service will provide a written report of a child's views in response to key questions or issues. We can also support children to attend meetings to share their views.





Who can use the Children's Views service?

- staff involved in supporting a child in school (teachers, head teachers)
- local authority staff
- the Additional Support Needs Tribunal
- independent mediators
- independent adjudicators



Referrals are made in partnership with the child and family.



When would the Children's Views service work with a child to help them share their views?

The Children's Views service can work with a child aged 12-15 to help them share their views during formal processes about their support for learning including:

- when a child's additional support needs are being assessed
- when an assessment for a co-ordinated support plan is being carried out or the plan is being reviewed or closed
- if the child or their parents are making a reference to the Additional Support Needs Tribunal
- if a child's parents are taking part in mediation with the school or local authority
- if a child or their parents are taking part in independent adjudication.

There may be other times when the Children's Views service could work with a child, such as if a child is out of school for a reason related to their additional support needs and the school wants to gather their views about the support that would help them back to school.



Who will work with a child to help them share their views?

A Children's Views worker will work with a child to help them to share their views in response to questions or issues set out in the referral. Children's Views workers are not advocacy workers but are experienced in listening to and reporting on what children have said.



How do I make a referral?

To get in touch to discuss making a referral, go to <https://myrightsmysay.scot/referral/> and someone from the team will get back to you.