

# Parent Carer Update: The Government's Schools White Paper.



We have been asked by parent carers recently for comment on the Government's schools whitepaper, Every Child Achieving and Thriving.

This response is our update on what the white paper is, what happens next and what it means for families.

We genuinely do understand how families may feel anxious about changes and we are here, as always, to support through this uncertainty.

Firstly, it's important to say that at this stage this is not law. For anything to change the Government must introduce a Bill to Parliament to be debated and examined before it becomes law.

It is a policy document detailing proposals that the current Government has set out for schools and SEND reforms, which it believes will bring positive change.

Individuals and organisations have been invited to comment through an open consultation [SEND reform: putting children and young people first - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#), (not to be confused with Reform UK, the political party elected to run Derbyshire County Council, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025).

We, as parent carers ourselves, have concerns and so we appreciate this is a worrying time.

This article on the Contact UK website (a charity For Families of disabled children captures the concerns many feel, from focus groups, including the positive and negatives and can be found here [Making sure parent voices are heard in the Schools White Paper consultation](#)

In Derbyshire there have been opportunities for parent carers to have their say e.g. peaceful protests, MP Roundtable discussions and through our National Network of Parent Carer Forums we know the same is happening nationally, as parent carers voice their concerns and frustrations with the slow progress around SEND issues.

Additionally, we know that several advocacy groups have brought legal challenge through judicial review through the courts.

As we are approaching the end of the consultation, we want to remind you of the opportunity to have your say, using the link below:

[SEND reform: putting children and young people first - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

Perhaps you have thought- *what's the point in another survey- no one ever listens anyway?*  
You still have time to ensure your voice is heard, the link remains open until Monday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.

Maybe you do not have the energy or bandwidth to do anything more than take care of your children and young people.

We understand this.

Don't worry, as a Parent Carer Forum (PCF) we will be commenting directly on the proposals by taking the feedback we have received from parent carers across Derbyshire about what matters to them.

We heard your voice; we will amplify it.

What happens next?

The Government will consider all the feedback received from individuals and organisations and may revise part or all of its plans.

We will provide further updates as the process continues.

Remember your DPCV is always listening to your feedback at a local level. 365 days a year 7 days a week here [Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice - Bimonthly survey](#)

***Your voice is important and helps shape better support for children and young people with SEND locally.***