

What do young people with SEND want to say?

Sofia age 14 (ASD) (@goldylookfleece)

Sofia is a fantastic artist. She's kind, loving and has lots of empathy. She's very quiet and doesn't speak unless necessary.

This is one of Sofia's photos.



Sofia was asked: "If you could encourage people to understand one thing, what would it be?"

"People need to stop talking, addressing me like I am a four year old."

Louis, age 9 (@MsJoBillington)

[Listen here](#) to Louis talking about his 'dream school' for the BBC's listening project.

Alex, age 9 (@2tubies)

"I asked my old school a hundred times if I could be included in everything but they didn't even try."

"My new school knows I like to be included in stuff so they just do it. I did PE last week for the first time."

Just because I have a problem doesn't mean I should miss doing science and P.E."

Alexander age 12 (ASD & ADHD)

Alexander was asked: What would you change about school?

"It would help if they (my friends) didn't call out and delay everything."

(It helps) if the teacher tells me some words that they will use next lesson so I can go home and look them up so I don't have try to figure them out and miss stuff."

A school that understands me and doesn't give me detentions when I didn't know things"

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Dude is 15, autistic & non-verbal (due to severe dyspraxia) (@everhopeful1000)

He communicates using Proloquo2Go, Makaton, writing, letter board and stims. As a consequence he's easily underestimated.

This is a poem he wrote:

**"Haunting ideas go round my mind
I don't understand what I might find
Lost in the brain my words hide
My remembering and language stay inside"**

Dude was asked: What do you want people to know.

"That I understand everything that you say"

James aged 13

James was asked: "If you could encourage people to understand one thing, what would it be

"we are all just people but we sometimes need help."

"We are not naughty and we want to learn."

"Schools need training to understand what help we need."

"When we are upset give us time and space to calm down."

Let us tell you when we want to talk."

Jade, age 11 (Dylexia, Dyspraxia)

Jade was asked: If you could change one thing about school, what would it be?

"That they tell me what I'm doing right"

Ben, aged 12

Ben wrote this for a speech on equal rights

Today I'm doing a speech about equal rights. I want to talk about how you treat people. So you all know me as a cross clown. Silly + Misbehaving all the time. Well I want to say how I was not always like that in the first month maybe 3 weeks I was perfect then people started calling me names so I thought something has to change. What I'm saying is people only like you for how you act and what you do well at. I think I'm a good Goalkeeper but people take the mick out of me and say I'm bad so I get annoyed. Some people get mistreated as they don't have maybe a good phone or maybe the new xbox or clothes or whatever for example I have a small Vodafone and oh my gosh how many people have insulted me. A big example is in my Primary My Brother has ADHD + Autism so he acted differently so tonnes of people laughed at him and took the mick out of him because of his disabilities and because he was different. Different is a word you want to be called I am different and that's good because you don't want to be someone else because you should be proud of that. You shouldn't be mean to anyone because maybe they support a bad different team (Sunderland) football team or have a old pair of shoes or a old xbox so what I am saying is don't discriminate and be horrible to people because they are different. Thank you for listening to my speech about being fair.