

Advice on Helping a Child or Young Person Complete their My Views

The My Views is a child or young person's opportunity to contribute an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) needs assessment request. This is usually completed in school with help from someone the child or young person is familiar with, however there may be reasons for this to be completed at home with a parent. If you feel that your child or young person presents differently at home and at school you may want to complete a home version with them

The document has to be relevant to children and young people aged 0-25 with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities, therefore it may seem too simple for a high functioning young person or too difficult for a young child or those with profound difficulties. We also advise to complete it to the best of the child or young person's abilities. If the child would like to express their views in another way, such as a drawing, this can also be submitted. It is also ok if a child or young person does not want to complete the form at all.

Section 19 of the Children and Families Act sets out the general principles that local authorities must have regard to when supporting disabled children and young people and those with SEN under Part 3 of the Act. Local authorities must pay particular attention to:

- ✓ the views, wishes and feelings of children and their parents, and young people;
- ✓ the importance of them participating as fully as possible in decision-making and providing the information and support to enable them to do so; and
- ✓ supporting children and young people's development and helping them to achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes.

You can find a copy of the My Views document here <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sendocs> there is also a version with Widget symbols if this will help the child or young person complete the form.

Recording a Child or Young Person's Voice

A child or young person's voice is very important. It is also important to ensure that it is clear when a child or young person is expressing their views directly and when an adult is expressing views on their behalf.

If a child or young person is filling the form out themselves they should use 'I' (e.g. I love swimming). If an adult is completing the form for a child or young person but recording the answers to question, 'I' should also be used. If a child is unable to answer the questions but assumptions are being made for the child, the child's name should be used (e.g. Danny loves swimming). Ideally a reason this assumption has been made should also be recorded (e.g. Danny loves swimming as he is always smiling and splashing in the water).

When recording a child or young person's answer it can be tempting to censor their responses into 'reasonable' or 'accurate' answers, however it is important to hear their voice. For example; if a child or young person answers 'I need help with' by saying 'nothing' it can be frustrating as you know they need a lot of help, however this may indicate that they don't realise the level of support they need or that they don't understand that they get extra help at all, both of which are important points.

It may help children and young people give honest answers if they know why they are completing the form and who will see it.



MY VIEWS

(SEN06)

My name

School name

All about me

I am interested in:

This could be in school, outside of school, hobbies, tv shows, computer games...

My friends...

Who does the child or young person class as their friends? They could be from school, groups or online for example.

What I can do well...

Consider in school, at home or at groups they attend. What is the child or young person most proud of?

It helps me if others...

What help does the child or young person have or wish they had? In or out of school?

My thoughts about school...

This can still be completed even if a child or young person is not currently in school

I need help with

Are there certain lessons, times of the day or activities that the child or young person needs help with?

I don't need help with...

What do they feel they are good at? This could be a school subject or playing with their friends at lunchtime!

It's a good day at school when...

You could ask the child to imagine a good day at school, what would they do? Who would be there? This could be a good prompt if a child wants to complete a drawing.

What I would like to change about school...

A certain lesson? The uniform? The lunches?

Sometimes I worry about...

This could be what they worry about in school or outside of school. It could be to do with parents, friends or the future.

In the future I would like to...

The future can be a very difficult concept for some children and young people. You could break it down into what they would like to be able to do this time next year and what they would like to do as an adult. There are no silly answers!

What my mum / dad / carers think...

The family conversation is the parent, carer's and family opportunity to express their own thoughts, this question aims to ask what the child or young person thinks are their parent's views. For example; 'My mum thinks secondary school will be hard' or 'My nan thinks I am really good at maths'.

I would also like to say...

Does the child or young person have any other comments to make? Perhaps about the education, health and care plan process or about completing this form?

.....helped me to write this
Signed Date.....
Signed Date.....
Please print name(s)
.....

Warwickshire SEND Information, Advice and Support Service

01788 593159

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