

# Let's talk... about back to school

Saturday 18 July

10:30am to 12:00pm



## Attendees

4 parent carers representing 5 CYP with SEND ranging from 4 to 24

## General consensus

In addition to the social, mental and emotional health of children and young people, parent carers are concerned that months of little or no exercise will have had a physical impact on their children, especially those with pre-existing mobility issues.

## Key points

- Children and young people that have missed physio, OT and SALT sessions since March will require significant additional intervention to return to pre-March levels.
- As lockdown eases, parent carers are concerned about places to take their CYP that will be COVID-safe.
- Schools are looking at innovative ways to transition CYP back to school, such as videos of teachers reading stories.
- Parent carers are concerned about their CYPs' social and mental health, as they have not seen friends since March 2020.
- Parent carers acknowledged that this has been an incredibly difficult time for siblings, who are also young carers.
- Parent carers talked about SENCOs teaching all children about disabilities in the same way that they are taught about sex, race and religion.
- Parent carers are aware that wearing a face mask, where necessary, needs to be regarded as a new normal.

## Quotes

- "School is school; home is home. My son wouldn't do any school work at home."
- "School work was generic and far too hard for him."
- "As a parent, there is always a feeling of guilt. Did we do the right thing to get a diagnosis? It could go either way."
- "The cashier recognised the sunflower lanyards in Sainsbury's so it's good to see that the staff have had training."
- "My son wears a facemask in the taxi to school but doesn't like it."

- “The school is not using PPE but maintains social distancing. They feel that wearing a mask would be scary for the children.”
- “It would be good if SENCOs talked in schools about disabilities in the same way that they talk about sex, race and religion.”

### **What Family Voice Norfolk will do to make sure parent carers’ views are heard**

#### Family Voice:

- Has suggested that families follow the Facebook information page for ideas and events over the summer.
- To raise with Virtual School SEND advisory group about SENCOs talking to children about disabilities in the same way that they talk about sex, religion and race.
- To raise concerns about young carers getting support to the Young Carers steering group and the Young Carers (COVID) recovery plan team.
- To raise issues that physios will need to address physical health of CYP at Children and Young People’s Mental Health Parent Carer Forum and the Children’s Health Integrated Commissioning group.