

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i'r [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg](#) ar gyfer yr ymchwiliad: [A oes gan blant a phobl ifanc anabl fynediad cyfartal at addysg a gofal plant?](#)

This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) for the inquiry: [Do disabled children and young people have equal access to education and childcare?](#)

AEC 22

Ymateb gan: Unigolyn

Response from: Individual

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To whom this may concern

I wrote to the Education Minister in the Senedd the other week about the challenges my son has/is encountering and to be perfectly honest was given a standard no assistance response.

As a mother with a child with additional needs (\*Autism Spectrum Disorder) Hypermobility, Sensory Processing Disorder, suspected Epilepsy and Long Covid.

My son has been in mainstream for both Infants and Juniors, but for High School the provision is needing to be more focused around [REDACTED] needs which the school he was supposed to be going too in September is not.

Brief insight:

[REDACTED] has struggled during the last few years and has a small provision of a one-one whilst in Juniors.

Transition days attempted he lasted 1.5 days and informed that during this time he was shouted at by someone who according to the head of year was 'lovely' but I witnessed her anger towards children and shouting was then only way for many teachers. This has made my son extremely anxious. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He said they treated him like a 4 year old.

I asked the head of year what the provision for children was to discover this was an Access unit with 17 additional learning needs children and 2 class buddies (\*age 12-13) which is not adequate for my son or other learners.

I was of the impression that provision for my son would be on an one-one basis and could attend lessons and see what needed help with and what could cope with help in going too. The head of year said that the school was not that kind of provision and I would have to pay for private school and pay a one-one which I know is not the case.

My son was bullied on the second day in high school and defended himself and then my son ended up in trouble. I removed him from the school and told them that my son did not feel safe and cared for in the provision and that he would not be going to the school.

Now I am back to square one after saying all my concerns for [REDACTED] in High School and needing to be more of an ASD focused unit. Instead he was placed in an unsuitable provision not able to help and make reasonable adjustments and expecting him to change to their damaging set up and is not fair and in my personal opinion is Disability Discrimination. My son does not have a suitable provision for September and in the hands of the local authority. My sons case goes to moderation panel on [REDACTED] with the hope he is placed in a suitable provision which is smaller and more understanding of children with ASD.

The new ALN reform for Wales is not fit for purpose placing the onus on a teacher to support a group of children with SEN and removing provisions of one-one support which has kept my child in school and helped when needed. Teaching Assistants are an asset to any class and this idea that they do all of the child's work for them is incorrect they provide support to keep a child on task maybe explain things in a smaller simpler way in step by step instructions which then enables children to understand, this will in my sons case be the only way I can get him into school if he feels safe and secure. Someone that can support him and help him remain in the setting.

I hope this information helps with information to demonstrate that children and young people who are Neurodivergent do not have equal access to education and made a million times worse with the move from Statement to IDP. I do not think that the onus on the teacher should be the way as TAs assisting children with additional needs meant that the teacher was supported and able to manage if any incidents happened. My son has a terrible attendance and this was only improved by there being support for him. My son has been excluded from trips and events which is discrimination and only telling him the day before or asking me to break the news is very unprofessional and needs to be managed better. All of this has resulted in my sons mental health being impacted and self harm and suicidal ideation which have worked so hard to improved. It feels like 2 steps forward and 3 back. I believe that mainstream provision are not suitable for many children in High School particularly. My son needs a smaller provision where he is the centre of the needs provided.

Parents and carers need to be heard they need to know that they have the best interest of the child/ren and know what is best practice. They should not be dismissed and should not be called "worry too much, over anxious!" It is extremely patronising. Inclusion is extremely important and needs to be taught better. In both school and to people working in the school as having half a day input is not sufficient.

Anyway I am happy to discuss further if so desire. [REDACTED]

Kind regards