

SEND Reform Consultation: Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS)

Young People's Discussion Guide for Workers

What is this about?

The Government wants to change how Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) works.

They want to hear from children, young people, families and professionals before making any decisions.

This is your opportunity to help young people understand the proposals and share what they think.

What is EOTAS?

Some children and young people cannot have their education in a school or college because their needs cannot be met there.

Instead, they might learn:

- at home
- with tutors
- online
- in community settings
- through specialist programmes
- with therapy as part of their education.

This is called **Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS)**.

Why does this matter?

The Government says too many young people only end up on EOTAS because:

• they didn't get help early enough • schools couldn't meet their needs • families had to fight for support • education placements broke down.

The consultation looks at how this could work better in the future.

What changes are being suggested?

Better support earlier

The Government wants children and young people to get support much sooner so fewer people need EOTAS in the first place.

Better quality education

If someone is on EOTAS, they want to make sure:

- ✓ education is high quality
 - ✓ it is safe
 - ✓ it helps young people reach their goals
 - ✓ it prepares them for adulthood.
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More regular reviews

Young people on EOTAS could have more regular reviews to make sure the support is still right for them.

Returning to school or college

For some young people, there may be opportunities to return to school or college if that is the right choice.

The Government says this should only happen when it is carefully planned and in the young person's best interests.

Better checks on providers

The Government wants stronger checks to make sure organisations providing EOTAS are safe and provide good quality education.

Support for young people with health needs

The consultation also looks at young people whose physical or mental health means they cannot attend school.

It asks how schools, health services and councils could work together better.

Things young people might want to think about

There are no right or wrong answers.

We want honest opinions.

Feeling safe

- What makes you feel safe in education?
 - What would help you trust education again?
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Getting support

- Did you get help early enough?
 - If not, what should have happened sooner?
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Education

- What makes learning work well for you?
 - What gets in the way?
 - What should every young person receive wherever they learn?
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Reviews

- Who should help make decisions?
 - How often should support be reviewed?
 - What should never change without asking you first?
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Returning to school or college

- What would need to happen before you would feel ready?
 - What support would make it successful?
 - What worries you about going back?
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Your voice

- Do adults listen to you?
 - What would help you have more choice?
 - How should decisions be made with you instead of about you?
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Key messages we would like to hear from young people

- What works well now?
 - What needs to change?
 - What should never happen?
 - What does good education look like?
 - What makes you feel included?
 - What would make the biggest difference to your future?
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Important message

This consultation could shape how education outside school works in England from 2029 onwards.

Young people's lived experiences are essential.

If they have experienced EOTAS, alternative provision, being out of school, or difficulties getting support, their voice is especially important.

Every experience matters.