

Information for parents

Hello, is your child?

- Aged between 11-18?
- **Autistic?**
- **Struggling, or has struggled, with attendance at a mainstream secondary school?**
- Interested in joining a group 'online' for a number of weeks to share their experiences (this can be through typing text, using speech to text, cartooning, drawings or however they best communicate) ?
- **Happy to get their parent or carer's consent to participate?**
- **Has access to a phone or device where they can log into a closed google workspace?**

Autistic young people are actually the people who know the most about this topic. Their voices and stories should be heard so we can understand more about how school attendance might be difficult when you're autistic, how non-attendance might first begin and how it might feel to be autistic in school.

We hope to make an animation summary of the research

Research participants needed

Autistic in school
A participative research project exploring autistic young people's experiences of mainstream school attendance difficulties

Education Doctorate (SEN) research study

For info or to **join email** ed15kf@leeds.ac.uk



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Information for **participants** (autistic young people)

What will I be asked to do?   

You will be given a made-up user name to go online in a google workspace closed forum with other autistic participants to share your views, ideas and experiences about school attendance difficulties. Participants in the forum will only know your given user name and not your real identity. You can let the others in the group see your experiences and comment to each other or you can remain private and no other participants will see your input.

You don't need to be able to type well, you can draw if that helps or use speech to text options.

We don't have any cameras or mics on in the forum

You can join from a phone, tablet, laptop or PC

Participation in the project is:

- **One hour a week for 10 weeks – at anytime that suits you just drop in for your hour online each week and contribute – there's no set time or day**
- **Voluntary – you can stop anytime, nobody will be angry**
- **We want your input – you are the experts in this topic**
- **Useful – we hope you learn something about how researching works and we hope you can help us to build research to teach others more about being autistic in school.**

For more info or to **join email** Kat Farrell ed15kf@leeds.ac.uk

Research supervisor: **Dr Judith Hebron** j.hebron@leeds.ac.uk

Ethics approval no: **AREA 21-031**