

What is the

Disabled children's
manifesto for

change?

“Disabled young people often get forgotten or are an afterthought. If MPs can just listen to our messages and understand us, hopefully they will make the changes we want. These changes, no matter how small, will make a world of difference to the lives of disabled young people.”

Jade Bracey, a young disabled person and Co-vice Chair of the Council for Disabled Children

making
ourselves!
HEARD

disabled
Every Child Matters

What is EDCM?

disabled
Every Child Matters

Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) is the campaign to get rights and justice for every disabled child.



What is a manifesto?

A manifesto is the name for a document that a group uses to tell everyone what it stands for.



The **Disabled children's manifesto for change** tells everyone what disabled children and young people want the next Government to do to make sure they get the services and support they need.



Who is the manifesto for?

The manifesto is written for the people who run the country. We want them to answer our questions and listen to what we say.



“I don't want to feel like I'm a nuisance or somebody different. I just want to do everything that everybody else does.” Claire

What do we want the Government to do?



“Everyone should be treated as an individual, with the same rights as everyone else. We are not asking for more rights, just the right to equality.” Roger

We want the Government to



- understand and respect disabled children and young people



- support us to take part in our communities, doing the things that all other children and young people do

- make sure the services we use can support us to live ordinary lives



- help us to get the education, jobs and training we want.

What is in the Disabled children's manifesto for change?



The manifesto is split into 4 parts.

In each part of the manifesto we ask the Government to answer some hard questions.

Part 1 is called **We want: Respect**



“I don’t think it should be like this. You have to work really hard to be included.” Jared



“Ever since I was a child I always got bullied at school, and now we need to do something about it.” Michael



“I want to go out and learn how to catch a bus, how to go on holiday, how to go abroad.”

In part 1, we ask what politicians will do to make sure



- **we are treated equally**
- **we can do the same things as other young people**
- **bullying of disabled children and young people stops.**

Part 2 is called **We want: Community**



“Give me a choice and don’t assume you know what I want.”



“I get fed up because there aren’t enough places to go with suitable activities for young people.” Patrick



“You can’t get to places, like if you want to go and meet your friends in town.” Kim

In part 2, we ask what politicians will do to make sure



■ **we can have our say**

■ **people who work with us understand us properly**



■ **we can get travel training so we can travel on our own.**

Part 3 is called **We want: Commitment**



“Doctors don’t listen the first time we say something is wrong, then they listen when it’s too late. They use really long technical words and they don’t always explain what those words mean which is confusing. They get really impatient with us – that’s not nice!”
Lavinia



“When they don’t talk to you or talk to your parents... it’s like I’M HERE!” Danielle

In part 3, we ask what politicians will do to make sure



■ **health staff can communicate with us properly**

■ **we have someone to help us make decisions about our health**



■ **we can live in decent houses with our family or on our own.**

Part 4 is called **We want: Education and training**



“You should have easier access to getting help at school, without going through lots of fights and before it’s too late and you have lots of catching up to do.” Hannah



“There are some qualifications that I’m doing at college that don’t lead me to what I want to do in life.”



“What annoys me is when you put your health down on job applications. All I get is no reply or applications are all full, but when you walk past the shop they still have vacancies.” Rob

In part 4, we ask what politicians will do to make sure



■ we get the help we need in schools and that our schools and colleges have good attitudes to disability

■ we are not excluded



■ we can get good paid jobs and employers understand our needs.

What can you do to support us?



Send the manifesto to your local MP or anyone running for election.



Ask them to watch the film of young people talking about what they want politicians to do.



Get them to answer the questions in the manifesto. And remember to **tell us if they reply to you!**

You can download the manifesto and other materials at **www.edcm.org.uk/dcmanifesto**



To find out more about EDCM or order paper copies of the manifesto



email **info@edcm.org.uk**



telephone **020 7843 6082**

or write to



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