

## Information sheet for schools

### ? What is the Inclusion Ambassadors group?

The Inclusion Ambassadors are of secondary school age and represent their school and local area on a national group. The purpose of the group is to share experiences of being a pupil in Scotland with additional support needs.

Involvement from pupils from your area will ensure we have representation from all across Scotland and a clear picture of current experiences. We want to work with young people with a range of lived experiences and support needs.

### ? What will they do?

Inclusion Ambassadors will share their experiences first with peers, and the team at Children in Scotland. This will then inform policy and consultation responses or other calls for action. Inclusion Ambassadors may also be asked to meet with key stakeholders or contribute to events.

This group will be managed by national charity, Children in Scotland.

[Click here](#) for more information on Inclusion Ambassadors.



! **Involvement in the Inclusion Ambassadors group is free, and at no cost to the school or the local authority**

### ? How can you help?

#### If you work at a Local Authority

We need your help to identify young people who may wish to join our group, and ensure that the opportunities are known to anyone else who may be eligible to participate.

We hope that you will:

- **Ensure the opportunity is known to all schools within your area**, particularly those who operate an ASL hub or specialised department
- **Share this information** with all the families and young people who may be eligible to participate, and actively encourage and support their involvement.

#### If you are a school

We need your help in identifying and communicating with pupils, and their family, who would be suitable to join the group – both during recruitment and delivery.

You can help support communication with potential and recruited Ambassadors.

We hope that you will:

- **Promote this opportunity** to eligible young people
- **Encourage pupils to take part**, including actively supporting time required out of school to attend a number of meetings and supporting their participation in these sessions by passing on information to members
- **Help keep families up to date** with developments.



## ! What our current members have to say about the group

Epic

Fun

Engaging, it's very sociable and everyone gets a chance to talk about something

Respectful, the group members don't talk over each other

Not a waste of time, we actually do stuff

## ? Why should others get involved?

- "It's effective – people really listen and our voices are heard"
- "Your voices are going to be heard, compared to just being on your own wanting to do something but you can't"
- "Helped me gain more confidence in myself, I feel more independent now. My mother would never have let me go on a train by myself, but she did to come here"
- "It's brought my confidence right up, I did a powerpoint for school on this and an interview on radio"

### We are looking for people who are:

- Aged 12-18 (of secondary school age)
- Accessing additional support for learning
- Willing and able to share their experience of education
- Keen to discuss improvements to provision, and how to make this happen.

**There is no requirement to have experience of being involved in a project like this before – all we need is people who are enthusiastic and happy to work as a team.**

**Please get in touch to discuss potential members.**

### Meetings

Members of the group will be supported to attend each meeting with all necessary and reasonable adjustments made and support provided where possible. We would also encourage pupils to bring their own support staff or necessary equipment to the meeting to ensure they are able to participate fully.

The Inclusion Ambassadors are currently meeting online using Microsoft Teams.

When meetings are held in person, Children in Scotland will cover the cost of travel for all families and young people participating, including any supporting adults.

### What will the group do?

Building on key themes identified by previous Inclusion Ambassadors, workstreams may focus on:

- Awareness raising and peer education programmes
- Rights-based work
- Sharing and highlighting their experiences with key decision-makers, such as the Scottish Government
- Developing new resources for schools.

**Involvement and support from your local area/school will ensure that your pupils who access additional support for learning have the ability to be included in improving provision nationwide.**

### Think you might know someone who might be interested?

Please get in touch and send the application on behalf of the young person you are putting forward by **26th May**.

We require: the name of the pupil, the contact details of their supporting adult (preferably a support assistant), the name of the school and brief information from the pupil on something they like to do in their spare time.

**Contact Parisa Shirazi, Children in Scotland**  
email: [pshirazi@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:pshirazi@childreninscotland.org.uk)

More information on Children in Scotland is available at [childreninscotland.org.uk](http://childreninscotland.org.uk)