



University of Exeter



UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH



UK Research and Innovation



SORTITION FOUNDATION

You could be one of 30 people selected to take part in a new **Citizens' Panel** to address the critical question of:

### **How to make English schools more inclusive for children and young people with SEND?**

The Citizens' Panel will involve young people (aged 12-16) with and without special educational needs/disabilities (SEND), parents/carers and teachers. Participants will hear evidence from experts and debate and decide what needs to happen to ensure students with SEND feel welcome in school and succeed.

The Citizens' Panel will meet over two days in March 2023: first online, then at an accessible venue in Portsmouth. Lunch and travel costs will be provided. **All participants will receive £150 for taking part in the Panel.**

#### **Key dates and events**

Saturday, 11 March 2023	10am–2.30pm	Online, via Zoom
Saturday, 25 March 2023	10am–3pm	Central Portsmouth, venue TBC

We are looking for people with a wide range of views and experiences to make up the Citizens' Panel. You do not need any prior knowledge on inclusion or SEND to take part. We are recruiting from the following groups:

- **Young people aged 12-16**
- **Parents/carers of young people aged 12-16**
- **Teachers and education professionals.**

If you are a member of any of these groups, **we want to hear from you!** We are particularly, but not exclusively, interested in hearing from young people with SEND and their parents/carers, and from young people who are not attending school and their parents/carers. Young people with SEND will be invited to inform the design of the Citizens' Panel via two preliminary meetings held online between 10am and 12.30pm on Saturday 11 February and Saturday 25 February. Participants will receive an extra payment of £60 for their additional contribution.

**Support is available.** If you have additional needs, and are you are selected to take part in the Citizens' Panel, we can help with transport to the in-person events and technical support for the online events.

**Register your interest** via the links below. The deadline for registration is **11pm, 19 December 2022.**

- ◆ **Young people and parents/carers**, register at <https://portsmouth.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/parentsdp>
- ◆ **Teachers and education professionals**, register at <https://portsmouth.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/teachersdp>

For more information on the Citizens' Panel, please see our accompanying FAQs.

**This is a unique opportunity to help shape the public dialogue about inclusion in schools. We hope you will be interested in joining our Citizens' Panel, and we look forward to hearing from you.**



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## Citizens' Panel Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a Citizens' Panel?

A Citizens' Panel is similar to a Citizens' Assembly, which is an innovative democratic tool being used all over the world. Citizens' Panels are smaller. They bring together a randomly selected group of people to discuss and debate issues that are important to them and to society. The people who attend learn about an issue from experts in the field, discuss it with one another, and then draw conclusions about what should happen and how things should change, such as national policy.

### What will taking part involve?

If you are selected to take part in the Citizens' Panel, you will hear from engaging speakers on topics relating to inclusion and special educational needs/disabilities (SEND). You will be invited to discuss the issues raised by speakers in small groups, which will be led by experienced facilitators. They will ensure everybody has their voice heard. The overall job of the Panel is to arrive at a set of proposals designed to improve school inclusion for students with SEND. You do not need to have prior knowledge on inclusion or SEND to take part. All the information you need will be provided at the events. Participants will receive £150 as a thank you for taking part.

### Who is running the Citizens' Panel?

The Citizens' Panel is being held as part of [a UK-wide project](#) (funded by [UKRI](#) and [the RSA](#)) designed to test innovative ways of running public dialogue events. There are several project partners, each with a particular role. The Citizens' Panel events will be led by [Involve](#), the UK's leading public participation charity, with support from SEND specialists. [The Sortition Foundation](#), a not-for-profit organisation that specialises in recruiting people for these kinds of events, will randomly select people to take part in the Citizens' Panel. The project is being designed and evaluated by a team of educationalists, from the University of Exeter and the University of Portsmouth, with support and advice from the [SEN Policy Research Forum](#).

### How was I selected to receive this invitation?

The project team decided to hold the in-person event in Portsmouth, so we are looking to form the Citizens' Panel from people in and around this area. The team asked local schools and advocacy/voluntary organisations to share information about the Citizens' Panel with their staff, families and communities.

### Who can register to take part in the Citizens' Panel?

We are inviting people in the following groups to register their interest in joining the Citizens' Panel:

- Young people aged 12-16, with and without SEND
- Parents/carers of young people aged 12-16, with and without SEND
- Education professionals, including teachers and school leaders working in mainstream and special schools (primary and secondary), and SEND specialists/advisors working in any setting.

## **How do I register my interest to take part in the Citizens' Panel?**

You need to complete a short sign-up form. It should only take 2 minutes. The deadline for registrations is **11pm, 19 December 2022**. Please note: registration does not guarantee your participation in the Panel (see below).

- ◆ Registration form for young people and parents/carers: <https://portsmouth.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/parentscp>
- ◆ Registration form for teachers/education professionals: <https://portsmouth.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/teacherscp>

## **What happens after I have registered my interest?**

Once registration has closed, Sortition will randomly select 16 young people (8 with SEND and 8 without SEND), 7 parents/carers, and 7 education professionals to form the Citizens' Panel. This random selection will be weighted to ensure that there is a diverse range of people from the local area on the Panel. If you are selected, you will be contacted by phone and email in early 2023 to let you know. We will also arrange a follow-up call with you to explain what happens next, and to discuss any requirements you may have, so that we can make it possible for you to attend and participate in the events. Support is available with transport to the in-person event.

## **How will you ensure the Citizens' Panel events are accessible to young people with SEND?**

This Citizens' Panel will be designed around the requirements of young people with SEND. We will consult the young people with SEND selected to participate in the Panel during the planning stage, in order to find out exactly what we need to do to ensure the events are fully inclusive and maximise their participation. They will be invited to two online consultation events with the project team on Saturday 11 February (10am-12.30pm) and Saturday 25 February (10am–12.30pm). They will receive an additional payment of £60 for taking part in these sessions.

## **What will happen after the Citizens' Panel events?**

The key purpose of the Citizens' Panel is to agree a set of practical recommendations that can have a real-world impact on the experiences children and young people with SEND have of school. The project team will summarise the Panel's discussions and ideas in a short report to be shared with local and national policymakers, education professionals and organisations/groups, and the project funders. Participants will also have the opportunity to give their overall views on what it was like to take part in the Citizens' Panel. All participants will remain anonymous in all reports produced as part of this project.

## **Who can I contact with a query about the Citizens' Panel project, or to get more information?**

For further information about the Citizens' Panel, please email the project leads, Brahm Norwich (University of Exeter) and Rob Webster (University of Portsmouth): [b.norwich@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:b.norwich@exeter.ac.uk) | [rob.webster@port.ac.uk](mailto:rob.webster@port.ac.uk)