



Part Time Timetables & Alternative Provision Survey

March 2025

Background

SEND Voices Wokingham (SVW) were contacted by several families with questions and concerns about the use of part-time timetables and Alternative Provision (AP). In response we raised concerns with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC), who have agreed to investigate the matter further.

WBC has asked SVW to gather more detailed feedback from families regarding their experiences of part-time timetables and AP, particularly for children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) or those on SEN Support.

This 'snap-shot' survey was shared to our members via email and also through social media, it was not shared via schools and other networks. It ran for a shorter time period than usual surveys from 3rd to the 23rd March 2025. **31** responses were received from Wokingham Borough residents.

The survey results section contain ALL respondents comments, names have been removed to avoid identification.

Summary of Results

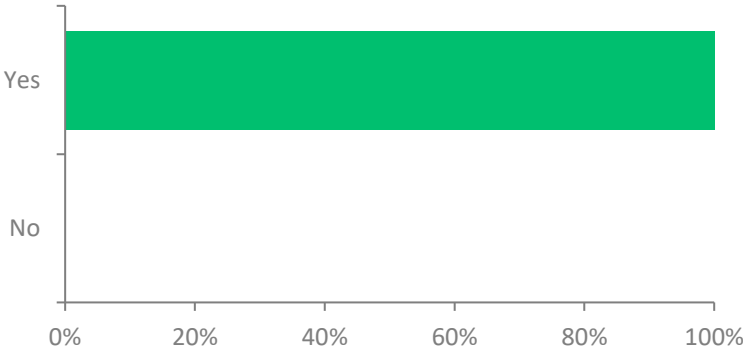
- Part-time timetables are used across all age groups, with the highest number of respondents from those with CYP aged 11-16 years (secondary school age)
- Nearly all the respondent CYP (87%) have an EHCPs (68%) or are going through the EHPC process (19%). There are a number of responses saying that they are waiting for the “right support” for their child
- 55% have not signed a part time timetable agreement.
- Over 55% of the respondents say their child has been on a part time timetable for 3 terms or more. For some working parents this is a real challenge.
- Just under half the young people have a plan to get them back into school.
- 58% have been offered some AP.
- For those who were offered AP, 46% (7) of the parents were given options to investigate themselves and 26% (4) said that school arranged everything for their child's AP.
- Only a small number (18%) said that the AP offered was appropriate and working.

Families experience of part time timetables and AP is very different. For some it works well and is helping for others it's being used because the schools can't meet children's needs. For some parent carers it is an issue and affects their work.

Schools understanding of part time timetables appears to differ so there is an opportunity to make clear the process and obligations for schools around part-time timetables and AP. Many of the families are also not aware that there is a process that should be followed, there is an opportunity to have clear information available on the Local Offer website.

Q1: Are you a Wokingham Borough resident ?

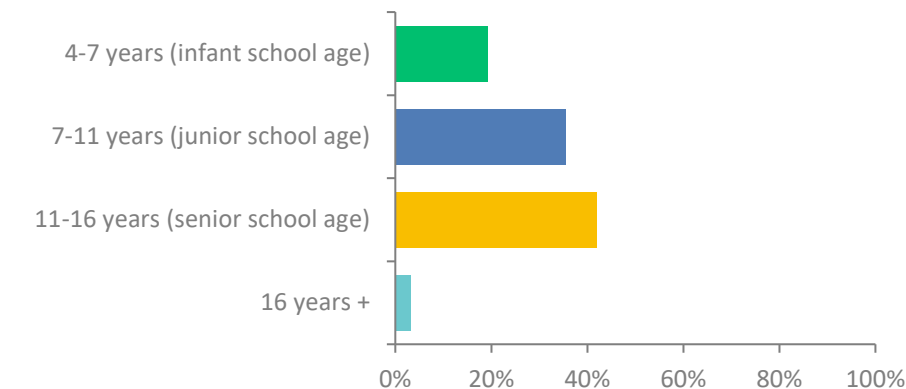
Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	31
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		31

Q2: What is the age of your child

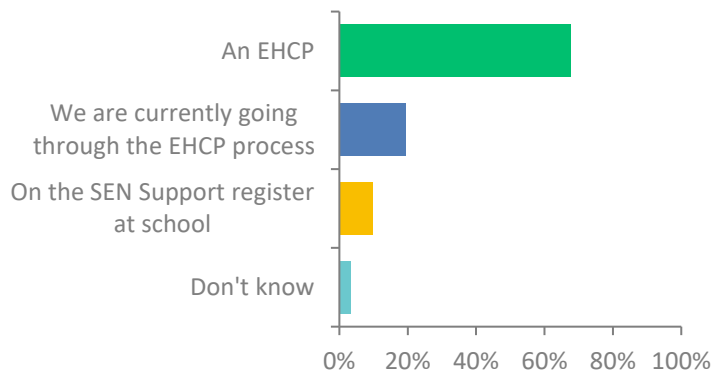
Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
4-7 years (infant school age)	19.35%	6
7-11 years (junior school age)	35.48%	11
11-16 years (senior school age)	41.94%	13
16 years +	3.23%	1
TOTAL		31

Q3: What level of support does your child have?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



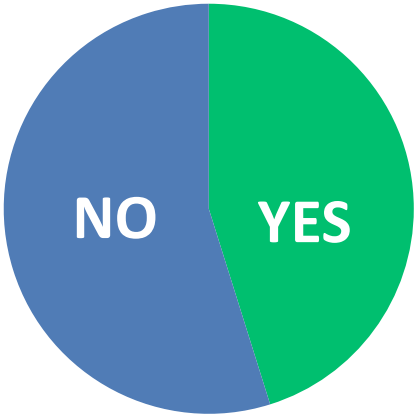
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
An EHCP	67.74%	21
We are currently going through the EHCP process	19.35%	6
On the SEN Support register at school	9.68%	3
Don't know	3.23%	1
TOTAL		31

Respondents comments:

- Full time ta when in school
- 1-1 support throughout his time in school.
- Child is on the Sen register and we are currently going through the EHC process although it's been a battle so far as school not forth coming with any Sen provision such as Send Support Pln and outside assistance.
- An ILP
- I felt greatly that his school did not understand X's needs.
- We're currently waiting for tribunal for refusal to assess
- Child has full time 1:1 in school with an ehcp but still can't attend due to various anxieties diagnosed by camhs but been waiting 3 years for the right help.
- Keyworker and reduced timetable
- Just had EHCP approved so in the draft stages
- Paperwork is being prepared but not submitted yet
- 1:1 in all whole lessons (in theory), access to hub at all times

Q4: Have you signed a part-time timetable agreement with your child school?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	45.16%	14
No	54.84%	17
TOTAL		31

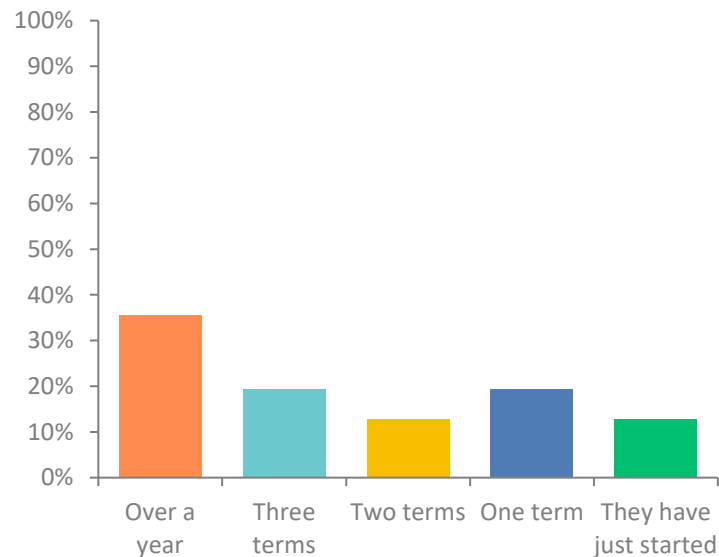
Q4: Have you signed a part-time timetable agreement with your child school?

Respondents comments:

- My son has been on PT timetable since September 24, it is now reduced to 2 hrs a day, with school no longer meeting need and needing a specialist, but with no where accepting my son. I see no end in sight!
- One child emergency review and not attending onsite provision any more. Youngest also with ehcp they've called it a flexible time table although it is the same as his previous part time timetable but without reviews, this child is 7-11years. When they have both been on more official part time timetables I've signed in past there's never been regular reviews
- A reduced time tables etc was given in September for 2 weeks but to my knowledge I didn't sign anything.
- I wasn't made aware at first that I had a choice to say no to it. I have since agreed to it as I don't feel the school is capable of looking after my son. He is worse depending on which teacher he has (job share) so I am happy for him to be off on the days where the teacher doesn't understand or know him as well and he gets more disregulated.
- We have asked school multiple times to formalise the part time timetable and to meet to sign it but they have not responded in over 4 weeks
- Not signed one but one is in place to meet my child's current needs. She has been attending full time previously.
- Child attending 2 hrs per day, 4 days a week
- It's been over 2years now he only does half days
- the school mentioned that they are unable to support my child to stay at school for lunch because of safety issue, so I cannot see the part-time time table will be a temporary strategy.
- We haven't signed anything, but have had several taf meetings and a pt timetable is in place.
- Signed on a weekly or fortnightly basis before being removed after 6 weeks last term
- It was never a process where we signed anything, but it was agreed for over two years.
- MTT was agreed as a way to increase attendance with EBSA
- None
- We are not happy about it but have been forced into it
- I haven't signed an agreement, but there is an agreement in place of 1 hour a day
- School told the Council that our child was on a reduced timetable for nearly a year. This was false. We took her into as many lessons a day, that she could make, due to extreme anxiety about school. If we had been on a reduced timetable, all sorts of external professional (including Educational Psychology) help would have been made available to help understand why and get our child back to full time. we were just left to it, and had no contact with the SENCO during that time. Later on school tried to impose a reduced timetable, withholding the fact that it required signed parental consent, as soon as we told them we knew what the rules were, they rapidly backtracked) - appalling conduct withholding procedures from parents.
- Foundry Home Tutor
- I have not heard of a part-time timetable agreement?
- Verbal agreement

Q5: How long has your child been on a part-time timetable?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
They have just started	12.90%	4
One term	19.35%	6
Two terms	12.90%	4
Three terms	19.35%	6
Over a year	35.48%	11
TOTAL		31

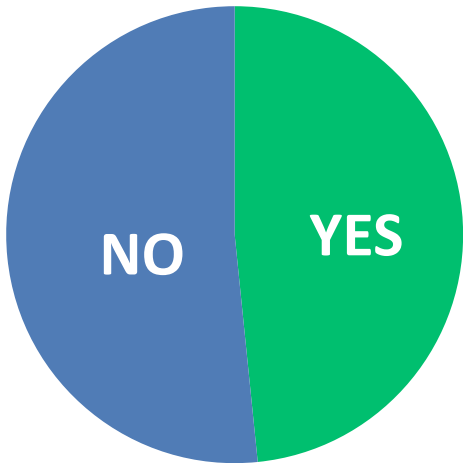
Q5: How long has your child been on a part-time timetable?

Respondents comments:

- This is the 2nd time being on a part time timetable, it just works for my child. She also does 4 APs a week which she's loves
- Started in September for 2 weeks. Now unable to attend school at all due to not meeting need.
- Since mid December.
- This is week 3
- On and off since October to support our child returning to school after a burnout/mental health crisis.
- Since Sept 2024
- Around 2years
- many years
- my child go to school at normal time in the morning and leaves at 11:30am at the 1st term. Now he leaves at 12:15pm and seems without any progress.
- Since started secondary school in September 2024.
- One year exactly
- One 6 week stretch last term and another four weeks this term
- She was on a part-time timetable for over two years before we took her to an independent school. She is now on a full timetable.
- MTT is working well, our child's anxiety is lower, school experience is more positive. It's been a life saver in some ways, but a significant challenge for working parents - it's DEFINITELY NOT the easy option!
- Nearly a year now
- This will be the 3rd week with no time limit
- Been on agreed timetable for 4 weeks. Has not been in the classroom since 6th Jan 25
- He was on a part time table in nursery due to behaviour. Started reception Sept 2024 on a reduced time table. Has done a full day
- Non official - that is just what the council were told. no agreement, no plan to get back into school, no help from external agencies.
- My child has been unable to attend school full time for approximately 2 years
- Since about January
- Since october

Q6: Is there a plan to get your child back to full-time education?

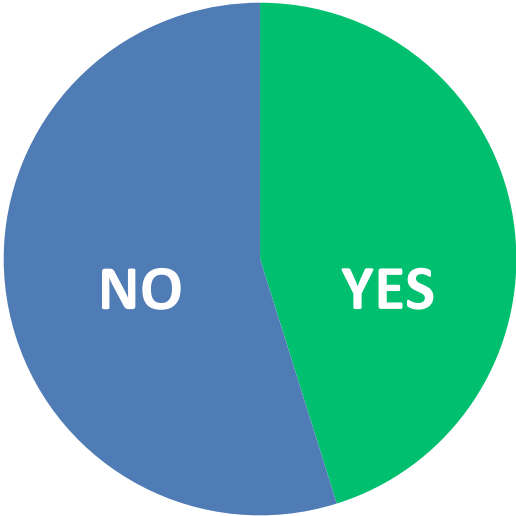
Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	48.39%	15
No	51.61%	16
TOTAL		31

Q7: If there is a plan is this regularly reviewed (every 6 weeks) with you?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	45.16%	14
No	54.84%	17
TOTAL		31

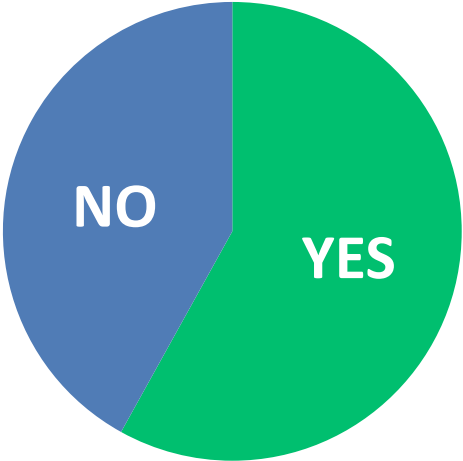
Q6: Is there is a plan is this regularly reviewed (every 6 weeks) with you?

Respondents comments:

- This will stay this way till transition to specialist secondary
- We review every so often, but even the 2 hrs a day my son is struggling with, he needs specialist support!
- Only reviewed when I have asked.
- Reviewed informally with school.
- review in every 2 weeks basic, but stuck at the lunch hours seems no further progress
- Yes and no. We have tag meetings very term/half term. There's no overall plan but to be honest, I don't think there's enough being done by school or LA to understand what my child needs to get back into full time education. I'm also not convinced full time education will ever be appropriate for my child.
- I'm not sure how to answer this.
- Reviews are constantly about increasing attendance, even when not realistic - they are doing their legal bit, but if a child isn't coping increasing isn't the answer
- No plan to return to full time, but discussed weekly
- Called an emergency review to try and get him out of mainstream
- School just lied to Educational Welfare for nearly a year - Why did the Educational Welfare office not speak to the parents even once, or ask for the signed parental consent - so that is a failing of the Council aswell.
- My child's provision is reviewed every 6 weeks but not in relation to returning to full time education

Q8: Has your child been offered any Alternative Provision (AP)

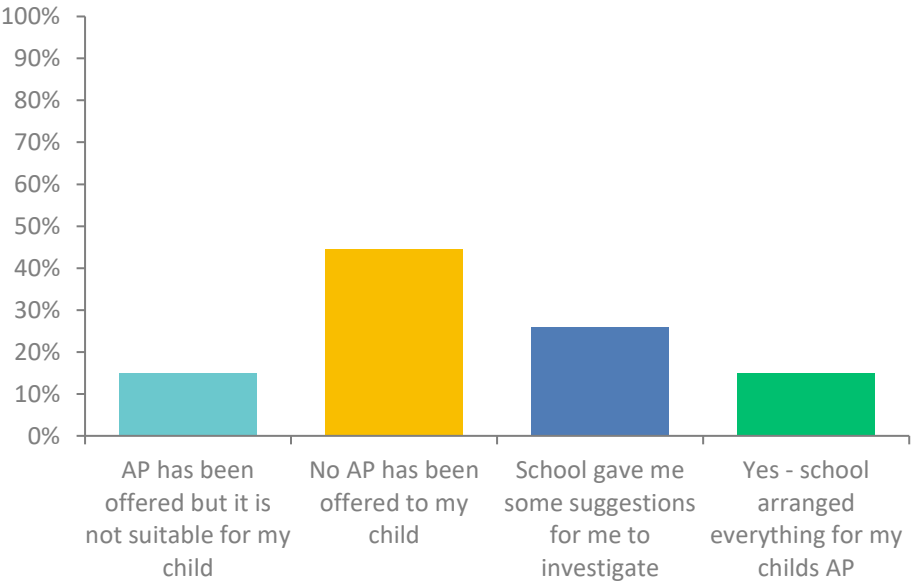
Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	58.06%	18
No	41.94%	13
Don't know	0.00%	0
TOTAL		31

Q9: If yes, did the school arrange the AP or did they give you options to investigate for your child?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes - school arranged everything for my child's AP	14.81%	4
School gave me some suggestions for me to investigate	25.93%	7
No AP has been offered to my child	44.44%	12
AP has been offered but it is not suitable for my child	14.81%	4
TOTAL		27

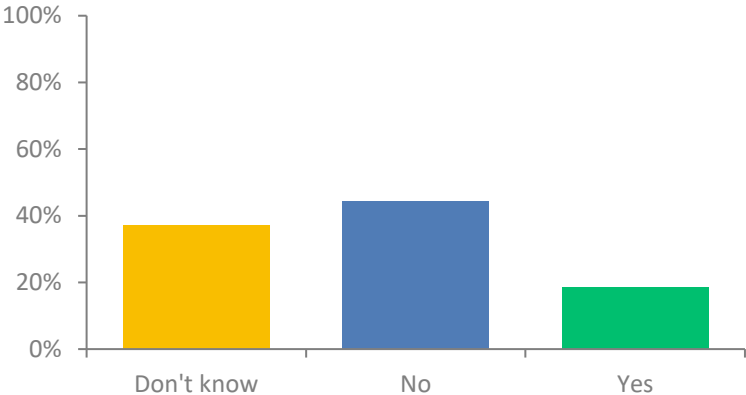
Q9: If yes, did the school arrange the AP or did they give you options to investigate for your child?

Respondents comments:

- 2 x Foundry and 2 mornings at Poppies farm
- My son goes to Storrybrook, and has an AP session through foundry college.
- Ap limited 55mins a week for both children. Eldest originally funded by myself then council insisted school pay as she is still registered at independent specialist they fund. Youngest on 55mins a week ap that panel did not fund so school got grant through charity
- School wanted to me to deregister and even gave instructions on how to do it but upon further advice from Local Authority, it was decided that I should request school provide alternative provision in the form of tutors.
- X gets 10 hours of English and Maths a week from an Agency provided by Wokingham Council and is also home schooled by myself his mother for the rest of the hours needed to count as further education.
- School arranged one the next time we were just sent a list.
- I've been chasing for an AP since 31 Jan to the LA. I've mentioned it in emails several times but it's never been picked up by school either.
- School did offer bush crafts on their field in Feb. I put a complaint into the LA, still no AP. This continues. Emergency review tmw.
- Gave one option but I looked into others myself
- Home tutors currently being arranged due to attending becoming impossible whilst sat on waiting lists for camhs mental health interventions. Anxiety provision as Foundry mentioned but I know from past experience it's not suitable. Harmony agreed but too far to get to when parent works.
- We found one, they suggested the other, we're working together on the next steps
- Without an ehcp nothing is available
- They offered too many different provisions in one week which would have been too much for our daughter to cope with
- On Friday 28th march. We applied together for AP waiting to hear from them
- School told us, we could choose to accept Foundry college, whilst they deferred their decision to permanently exclude - This is basically off-rolling - putting pressure on parents to take this choice. we refused and instructed lawyers on the advice of our SENDIASS officer
- None of the above, my child had a crisis and I removed her from her mainstream school. The Police and social services were involved and magically a place in AP was offered. WBC have been absolutely awful.
- School also arranged some

Q10: Is the AP appropriate and working?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	18.52%	5
No	44.44%	12
Don't know	37.04%	10
TOTAL		27

Do you have any other comments about part-time timetables and AP

Respondents comments:

- The mix of both of these just works for us and my child is doing very well. She just could not cope in school full time
- My son was told to leave an AP after becoming unregulated, I was with him, and was keeping him from hurting himself or others (apart from me) but was then asked to leave and also not to return! I have been told that it's standard practice if a child becomes unregulated for them to leave! This is wrong on so many levels, not to mention discrimination against him for something out of his control due to his disability.
- Yes it helps but is not enough to replace education for eldest and youngest it is not secure, school is currently looking at charity's to fund it for after easter
- AP not working due to child being isolated in school for long periods with no class work given. ASD also means child struggles socially and with strangers. It has now been decided that due to child's mental and physical health that she is unable to cope with the pressure and will not sit her GCSEs. Work is still set via email and completed in child's own time.
- There do not seem to be any APs available to my son unfortunately. I have searched but can't find anything. The Senco has referred him to Storybrook but I believe there is a waiting list.
- School do not seem to have a clue and are making it my responsibility to set up with only the SENCo to agree to it but no formal sign off and no idea on length or reviews. I am being ignored when I ask for a meeting regarding the timetable. Seems like it's all too much work for school to sort.
- I didn't know AP could be an option.
- My son did not get a college place for 24/25 even though i applied to two in time as all the places were apparently taken and that they "could not meet his needs". Thus he has been forced to stay at home and be educated as above but i am not happy about it as he is becoming withdrawn and isolated from normal education and i feel it is not good for his mental health. The Agency lady is wonderful but what she provides in no way can replace a college course (he needs to be on a life skills course). I have applied for colleges for 25/26 so lets hope he gets one!!!!!!
- Mainstream is so difficult for my son so part time is all he can handle. Sen school either reject as can't meet needs or council say the fees are too high at the schools that can meet needs!!
- part-time timetables should only be used in a short period of time and for student who is unable or unwilling to attend a full session of school time. Unfortunately, it is commonly applied by school that is either unable or unwilling to handle the SEN student instead.
- Working well for us. Am happy with verbal agreement only

Do you have any other comments about part-time timetables and AP

Respondents comments:

- 1. There are incredibly significant delays to any alternative provisions of years. 2. Despite live tribunals being aware, live Stage 1 & 2 complaints, LGSO referral, repeated threat of JR WBC have refused to provide any statutory education and /or EHCP provisions for years to our children. 3. Not only are these statutory breaches, but incredibly harmful to the child. 4. Meetings at the highest level with Jamie Conran have come to nothing. 5. There are constant delay and obstruction tactics being implemented by WBC. 6. There is wholesale breach of statutory obligations to provide alternative provision. 7. In meetings WBC SEND staff go as far as to say emails in black and white from them evidencing obstructive behaviours are a misconception, when even tribunal judges can plainly see the problems with WBC behaviours. These actions of further derogatory words targeting parents to deflect from their own actions seem very well rehearsed and practiced. This is incredibly disappointing and complete misuse of public money. 8. There is selective use of terms such as implementing the law, use of public funds. 9. When the LA waste money on barristers to defend indefensible positions, they forget the waste of public money argument. Yet, when asked to provide statutory EHCP and Education Act provision, WBC selectively use these terms.
- Yes. We shouldn't have to fight to get them and chase. It's the duty of the state to provide suitable education.
- The school say they have spent the EHCP money - previously they said they had spent the notional amount. Complaint to LA resulted in EWO. School and EWO agreed my child should be in school. School say LA need to pay for it now. My child is unable to attend school. We are looking for a change to specialist. This may not have been necessary but my child now has school trauma alongside autism.
- Should alternative provision always be offered? If so, I didn't realise this and it has not been offered by the school.
- Our son gets tired by school very easily and becomes overwhelmed by the idea of a full week. Without it he didn't feel able to attend. I feel that I have to fight for the part time timetable every week as I don't believe the school will keep it beyond 6 weeks. It was removed at 6 weeks last term even though he clearly wasn't ready for it, I suspect this was because Ofsted were due.
- My daughter was put on a reduced timetable to help with EBSA. It started with one session, increased to half time, and ended back at one session over the course of years. We felt this was a good solution at the time, initially she really needed the time off to recover from her anxiety. In retrospect, it became a crutch. I wish we had reduced her hours more at the start, to allow her to heal, but brought her back up to full time over the course of a term or two with good support. For example, X thinks she could have managed small group work in the afternoons instead of a full class to improve confidence. That said, I think part time timetables are an important tool and that parents should be consulted regularly and listened to if they believe their child needs a part time timetable. A happy child in school half time is much better than an unhappy one full time or an unhappy one out of school.

Do you have any other comments about part-time timetables and AP

Respondents comments:

- Part time timetables are likely being used because the schools can't meet children's needs because either the child has significant needs that require an ehcp and one hasn't been agreed or even if they have an ehcp, the provision in the plan isn't provided. Children can't access timely help from CAMHS. Schools don't make enough reasonable adjustments to allow children to manage school. School behaviour policies are too strict for sen children. Assessments are delayed and will soon be made harder to access.
- There needs to be more of them, more acceptance of them, and the pressure of increasing every 6 weeks isn't always the best interest of the child.
- I feel we should be offered for our child to work from home instead of reducing their timetable multiple times. My child struggles at school, they have autism, anxiety and adhd. Instead of reducing their education it needs to be substituted. Or AP offered to those children without an ehcp.
- We feel the school do not want our child and the part time provision is a way to reduce her time in school to help them. We feel let down.
- There is a lack of funding to be able to offer AP. Foundry College are currently delivering 1 hour a week in school. This falls short of my child's right to a full time education
- So hard cause I can't work
- School routinely abuse the process, or withhold information from parents,(ie signed parental consent required) and even put pressure on parents to accept (or risk exclusion) which is all about school resources, instead of the actual procedure, which is designed to be short term, and to get other professionals involved so that the child can access a full time education. Parents trust schools to be honest, (unwisely) The council should ask every school for a copy of the signed parental consent to be on a reduced timetable for every child that is on one. and the Council should explain the procedures to parents, and not trust the school to do this.
- My child had a place at a suitable ASD specific AP but the council refused to fund it. Instead she went to another AP after the council decision sent her into steep decline. Her current AP is better but it is not set up to deal with ASD children. My child should have been sitting upwards of 8 GCSE's and obtaining grades 7-9; instead she is only able to sit 2 because her education has been so damaged.
- When a child has an EHCP it states that part time timetables should not be used. Many case officers do not understand duties under section 19 and the council are after unlawfully denying children a full time education when they cannot attend school. It took a year to get the AP organised and for the send team to release funding. In the mean time the child was unable to attend school and left sat at home. As parents we had to pay for provision which we were eventually reimbursed. We had a annual review as suggested when a child with an EHCP cannot attend yet the send team took 11 months to finalise so even more time Was lost. There needs to be a better system in place support children when they cannot attend school. Our child was taken off roll of their school, with an EHCP yet the send team Failed to provide a full Time education, the provision was not provided