



**The Hangleton  
& Knoll Project**  
Working for a better community

# YOUTH WISE EVENT

**12 October 2022**

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS ON  
SCHOOL LIFE AND EDUCATION**

# INTRODUCTION

## YOUTH WISE - 12 OCTOBER 2022

On Wednesday 12th October over 30 young people from youth projects across the city came together for the quarterly Youth Wise meeting hosted by the Hangleton and Knoll Project; one of the commissioned youth services by Brighton and Hove City Council.

A workshop was facilitated by Tom Gouldon from Priority154 along with Youth Workers from the Hangleton and Knoll Project to gather views from young people about 'School Life'.

Everyone got the chance to get their point across captured on large A boards which the council reps took away with them to ensure young people's 'voice' is heard.

The council have produced a disadvantaged strategy and the aim is:

**Every disadvantaged pupil in the city will be encouraged and supported to achieve their academic potential and leave school or college with a positive relationship with education. We are committed to ensuring that the attainment of disadvantaged pupils is in line with and then exceeds national average.**

The council were really interested in giving a voice to young people to meet the objective:

'Work to ensure children and their families are well supported at school and feel that they can engage in their education so that we see overall SAWS data averages at pre Covid levels'

And the action to promote the pupil voice in creating a better understanding of the learning experience of disadvantaged children and young people, and to learn strategies that work for them. Utilise pupil voice information already gained from SAWS and poverty proofing (Head of Service, Integrated Families)

The young people worked really hard on answering key questions so get their thoughts and feelings across and this visual report captures their views for the Council reps to feed back to those that have the power and make the decisions.

We would like to thank everyone for taking part and coming along to get their voice heard.

# WHAT CAN MAKE SCHOOL LIFE HARD?

## COMMON THEMES



Lunch prices



Stress



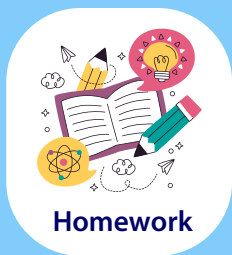
Teachers



Bullying



Socialising



Homework



Sensory overload



Arguments



Lessons



Disabilities

## REASONS FOR SCHOOL LIFE BEING HARD

"It is noisy, sensory overload and overwhelming."

"We're only young and they expect us to do as much as them."

"When lessons are tricky people, we can lose focus."

"Not having time to complete assignments."

"Sensory overload can affect the work in lessons."

"Having to ask to go to the toilet in front of the class and being refused."

"Not accessing the SEND support I am entitled to."

"Not having friends because then you won't have fun."

"Not knowing anyone."

"Authorities not taking it seriously."

"Let people dismiss themselves from the classroom, talk to them privately if it becomes frequent."

"Can't concentrate."

"Revision expectations."

"Too many people."

"Labelling of students."

"Some subjects are really hard."

"When friends aren't there or they leave."

# GOOD IDEAS TO MAKE SCHOOL LIFE BETTER?

## OR EASIER? FOR YOU AND OTHER STUDENTS

### IDEAS

 <p>Cheaper or no uniform</p>	 <p>Cheaper food</p>	 <p>More breaks</p>	 <p>More pastoral support</p>	 <p>More work placements</p>
<p>Having gender neutral toilets/changing rooms for trans students</p>		<p>Life classes - tax, voting, mortgages, politics, relationships</p>		
<p>Place where people can go specifically to make new friends or to calm down if stressed</p>		<p>Educate students on different disabilities to prevent bullying</p>		
 <p>Accessible trips</p>	 <p>More SEND support</p>	 <p>Learn about mental health</p>	 <p>Less homework</p>	 <p>Better communication</p>

### IDEAS ON HOW

- Letting you have breaks in lessons
- Asking students what would make them feel more comfortable
- Having keys instead of locks on lockers in case you lose your lock or forget your code
- More life skills and better sex education
- Establish an independent youth work presence in all schools
- Employ more SENCOs
- Provide SpLD support to pupils who are in the process of being diagnosed
- School trip committees
- Communicate more, speak up



# HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SCHOOL AND WHY?

## THOUGHTS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

"Stress. Too many expectations about how much time students can spend studying."

"Funny. It's a laugh with so many different people all at once."

"Feel like no one listens to you because teachers say they will listen but they don't. They walk off..."



"Good. School was great but I wish I had more education and GCSEs. I only had mocks!"



"Meh! The bullying and anxiety makes it s\*\*t."



"I didn't like school. I didn't like the lessons."

"Anxious. Constant pressure to get results and to fit into a judgmental social structure with little to no safety net."

"Horrible because they don't understand anything and make us feel bad."



"Enjoyed the academic side of it but struggled with my social side."



"It was a good school. I enjoyed English and maths and I had supportive teachers."

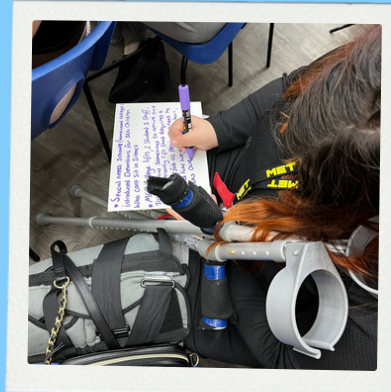
# WHAT IS YOUR 'HAPPY PLACE' AND WHAT MAKES IT POSITIVE?

## THOUGHTS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

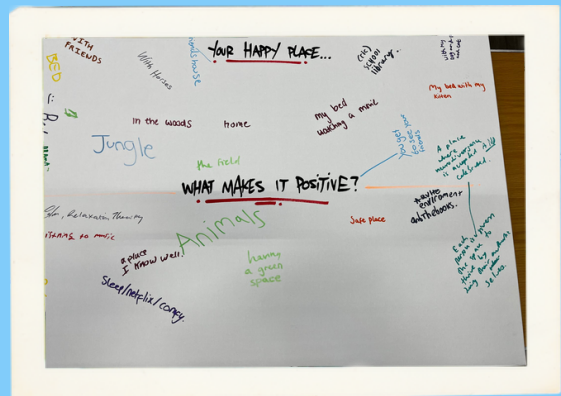
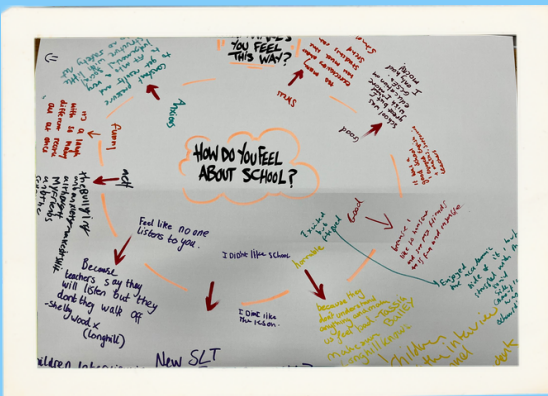
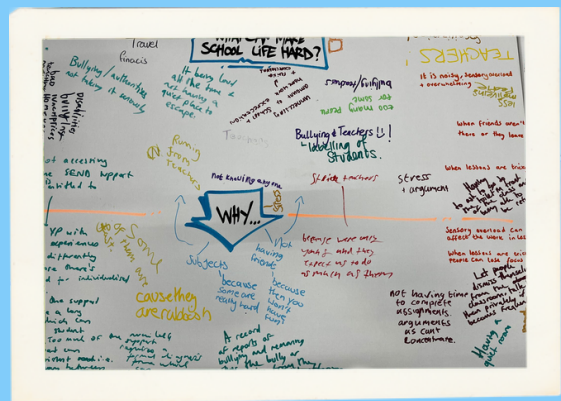
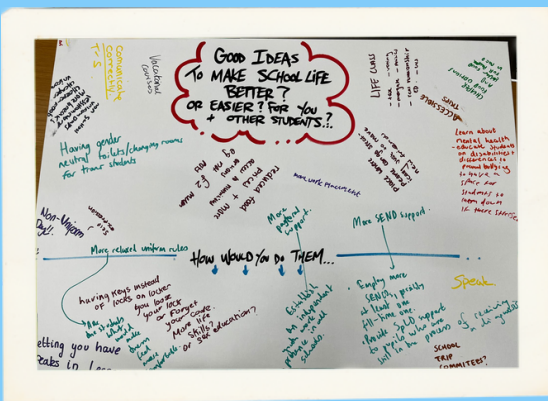
- Sleeping
- With friends
- In the wood
- At a friend's house
- At the field
- With horses
- Watching a movie
- In the jungle
- At home
- Drama room
- School library
- Listening to music
- In bed
- A place I know well
- With animals
- A safe place
- With my pets
- Green space
- A place where neurodiversity is accepted and celebrated



# PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT



# OUR VIEWS CAPTURED





# I WOULD LIKE TO SEE...

## THOUGHTS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

- A safe person for 1-to-1s
- More support from staff
- Therapy pets
- Mental health lessons
- Quiet space
- Student support area
- Youth workers based in schools
- Mental health workers
- More SENCOs
- Sensory areas
- Student trained for peer support
- Personalised support for individuals
- Wear your own clothes and comfy shoes
- Less time at school
- Not having to ask to go to the toilet
- Longer break times
- Life classes
- Stop bullying
- Cost of travel to school
- Gender neutral toilets
- Education on LGBTQ+ identities and inclusion
- Better equipment
- School safety

