

Sibs

For brothers and sisters
of disabled children and adults

New Siblings in Schools Project

Help us identify and support children and young people in your school that are growing up with a brother or sister who is disabled or has special educational needs or a serious long-term condition.



Who We Are

Sibs is the only UK charity dedicated to supporting siblings of people who are disabled, have special educational needs or a serious long-term condition.

There are over **half a million children** and young people in the UK who are growing up with a brother or sister with these needs. **That's almost two children in every school classroom.**

Young siblings are vulnerable to isolation, bullying, reduced wellbeing and problems with attainment. They are more likely than their peers to experience public prejudice, family breakdown and bereavement.

Over half of all young carers in the UK are siblings of disabled children.

Four out of ten siblings live in poverty.

“School would have been so much easier if my teachers had known about my sister Katie who is non-verbal and autistic.

Growing up we shared the same room so my sleep was interrupted when she had a bad night.

That made it hard to concentrate in lessons the next day. My homework - when I had a chance to do it - was regularly scribbled on and when things were difficult at home it was hard to keep my emotions in check.

There were so many times I was in need of support or attention at school, but nobody knew.”

Laura, sibling.



For more information
visit www.sibs.org.uk

Why This Issue Matters To Schools

Many children are either not identified as siblings or have their **needs overlooked** leading to problems with progress at school.

Sibling young carers have significantly **lower educational attainment** at GCSE level and are more likely than the national average to be not in education, employment or training (NEET) between the ages of 16 and 19.

Our aim is that every school in the UK will know how many of its pupils have a brother or sister who is disabled or has special educational needs or a serious long-term condition.

You may already be working with pupils who are having problems at school **because of their sibling experiences.** Barriers to learning for siblings include disturbed sleep and helping with care. Siblings may require specialist help such as counselling or support with homework. They may also need extra information and guidance at key points in their school life.

Schools can also help siblings celebrate the many positives around being a sibling such as developing patience, tolerance and kindness.

“We want siblings of disabled children and those with special educational needs or a life-long serious illness to have every opportunity to progress and achieve at school and beyond.

The first step towards achieving this goal has to be for schools to know how many of their pupils are siblings.”

Monica McCaffrey, Chief Executive,
Sibs



What You Can Do



Take part in our exciting new Siblings in Schools Project to help us find out what works for siblings in schools and what helps them progress.

Start by contacting our Development Officer for Siblings in Schools to register your interest email schools@sibs.org.uk

What we can do to support your school.

We will:

- Advise you on how to identify the siblings that attend your school
- Provide our new activity booklets for all of these siblings
- Train two members of staff on how to use these booklets with siblings
- Support siblings at your school through our YoungSibs online service
- Collect data about sibling wellbeing and attainment with the University of Warwick
- Evaluate the use of the booklets and provide you with a report on this
- Involve you in publications about best practice on supporting siblings in schools.

We will provide the above support and expertise FREE to a limited number of pilot schools. If you want to develop a sibling support group in school, there is a charge for sibling group leader training.

What commitment do we expect from your school?

We want you to:

- Identify a minimum of 10 siblings to work through the new activity booklets
- Agree to two staff members leading on the work, one of whom needs to be on SLT
- Allocate two hours of staff time for training on using the booklets
- Provide Sibs with the data to evaluate the effectiveness of the project
- Work within the project timescales set in agreement with Sibs.

www.sibs.org.uk

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