

## **Isolation booths in schools**

### **Upcoming research from the Children's Commissioner**

The Children's Commissioner for England is looking for parents, carers and children to help contribute to its research on isolation booths in schools.

#### **The Children's Commissioner**

Anne Longfield is the Children's Commissioner for England. She has held this position since March 2015. Her role was created by the Children Act 2004 and strengthened by the Children and Families Act 2014.

The Children's Commissioner is the 'eyes and ears' of children and young people in England. She speaks up for children and young people so that policymakers and other professionals take their views into account when making decisions about them. Her job is to bring about change and improvements for all children, particularly the most vulnerable. She does this by first talking to children and young people and organisations involved in their care. This is turned into research and other public information highlighting the big issues which affect children's lives.

The Children's Commissioner's office also provides advice to children who are in or leaving care, living away from home or working with social services through its Help at Hand advice line.

#### **Our research**

We are looking into the use of isolation booths in schools. Isolation booths are high-walled desks/dividers which children may be placed in as a sanction for misbehaving. The purpose of our research is to understand the different ways in which schools are using isolation booths. As part of this, we want to understand what children's experiences have been.

#### **How you can help us**

We want to speak to children who have spent time in isolation booths. We are therefore looking for parents and carers who know about this practice being used, and have children who are happy to talk with us about it.

We would ask children questions such as:

- Why were you sent to an isolation booth?
- How long were you there for?



- How did you spend your time in the booth?
- How did you feel about this experience?

We would make sure that children fully understand why we are talking to them and are happy to be involved. By taking part, children help us protect their rights and make their voices heard by government.

### **How we use information given to us**

This research will be used in a written report which we will share publicly. This report will include quotes and stories from people we talk to, but we will **not** use names or any other identifiable information. No one reading the report will be able to know who said these things to us.

### **What we need from you**

If you would like to help us with this project, please contact Alice Talbot, Investigative Researcher at the Children's Commissioner's office via phone on 020 7340 8113 or email on [alice.talbot@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](mailto:alice.talbot@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk) **before 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**

If emailing, please include information about where you are from and tell us a bit about your child's experience with isolation booths. Please provide a contact number.

Based on what you tell us, we may wish to arrange a brief phone call to find out more. If everyone is happy to proceed after this, we would then arrange a visit or phone call with your child, depending on what they would prefer.