

Practice guide

SEND & Alternative Provision

Co-production - Have a go Avocado! St Helens

Background, purpose and rationale

To make sure children and young people are at the heart of their Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), we have worked closely with them to design a more meaningful, accessible process. We co-produced a new All About Me section for EHCPs with students from Mill Green School and Carmel College. These young people helped identify the key information that Casework Officers need to create person-centred plans. Their input shaped how we ask about interests, strengths, hopes for the future, and the support that helps them best.

What we did to improve children's outcomes and experience

We re-designed the All About Me form with young people, making it easier to complete and understand in a creative and interactive way. We also added a new set of icons to help young people express what reasonable adjustments and support they need. This gives them a clearer, more visual way to speak up and be understood. Training was delivered to professionals on person-centred approaches and we launched the new EHCP format with SENDCOs in January 2025.

Have a Go Avocado Pupil Voice Workshops, designed and delivered by students and staff from Carmel College. The *Have a Go, Avocado!* book was written, illustrated, and produced by students from the Foundation Learning Department. The book is based on their own childhood experiences – including their worries, struggles, and achievements – and it brings real-life meaning to the pupil voice part of Section A in the EHCP. The overall goal is to empower young people to recognise their strengths, understand their needs, and feel confident to advocate for themselves – both in planning meetings and in everyday life.

What was the impact?

The approach is currently being embedded across schools and colleges in St Helens. Early feedback indicates:

- the new form makes pupil voice more structured, accessible, and reflective of the young person's own language and experiences.
- the co-production process has helped build ownership and self-advocacy skills among the young people involved.

A formal Quality Assurance process will take place in 2026 to evaluate:

- how well the form captures voice across different settings
- whether the new approach contributes to improved EHCP quality
- the effectiveness of the tools in supporting consistent, child-centred planning

This model has also supported wider cultural change—placing children and young people at the heart of EHCP development, not as contributors, but as co-designers of the process itself. Have a Go Avocado Pupil Voice Workshops: Linking to the Key Stage 2 curriculum, these creative sessions helped pupils:

- explore and express emotions
- build speaking and writing skills
- work with others in inclusive, supportive groups
- connect their learning to real life
- develop confidence and imagination

Resources

[‘All About Me’ form](#)

Have a Go Avocado! book – Available on request

[Pupil Voice SWAY](#)

[St Helens SEND Information Hub](#)

Find out more

To request copies of the resources or discuss how we developed and embedded this approach

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