

Information for observers to SEND mediations and dispute resolution meetings

You are invited to observe a mediation or disagreement resolution meeting to discuss a matter relating to a young person's special educational needs. This is because a young person, parent or carer is dissatisfied with a decision made within SEND legislation regarding an EHCP and they have decided to attend a meeting to discuss the matter either by mediation or dispute resolution. An observer could be from the mediation service or Local Authority and is generally someone who is training/shadowing or observing as a commissioner, for example.

What you can expect at the meeting The meeting is between the young person, parent or carer and the local authority SEND representative. You can expect conversations about the educational provision available and/or provided to the child/young person.

It should be noted that although the mediation is between the young person, parent, carer and the local authority SEND representative, there may at times be discussion about areas within provision where parents disagree. Whilst parents are often well prepared for the meeting, they may also be anxious and emotional.

The meetings are child-centred and are made accessible for children and young people to attend to have a voice where possible (as long as it does not cause the child or young person to become anxious or upset). Parents will make the decision if their child is going to attend and for how long.

Your role All parties have agreed that you can come to the mediation meeting to observe. You will be asked to sit outside the mediation table/area as your role is purely to observe and not become involved or comment on the mediation. If you have any questions about your role at mediation or dispute resolution, please contact the Mediation Service to discuss this further.

Virtual mediations Please note that you will introduce yourself at mediation and then be asked to turn your microphone and camera off. Confidentiality must be observed at all times and you must ensure that no one else can either hear the conversations or see those on screen.

Call: 0161 283 4807

Email: drs@togethertrust.org.uk.

Website: <https://www.togethertrust.org.uk/mediation>.