



Sefton CVS
Supporting Local Communities

Sefton Council 



MARCH 2021

SYMBOL

SEFTON YOUTH MAKING BETTER
OPPORTUNITIES WITH LEADERS

23RD MARCH 2021

Education and Covid-19

01

SYMBOL

Sefton Youth Making Better Opportunities with Leaders (SYMBOL) meetings are an opportunity for young people to meet and work collaboratively with key decision makers in Sefton.

Young people are involved in the planning and delivery of SYMBOL activity and attendees vote on the topics that are important to them.

Being a member of SYMBOL means a young person can play an active role in their community, with a direct line of communication with key decision makers, such as Councillors, senior managers from Sefton Council and representatives from Public Health, Merseyside Police and more. There are SYMBOL meetings three times a year at different locations around the borough and more recently they have been held online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

SYMBOL meetings have covered topics including:

- Sex and Relationships Education
- A Curriculum for Life
- Skills Development and Employment
- Economic Wellbeing

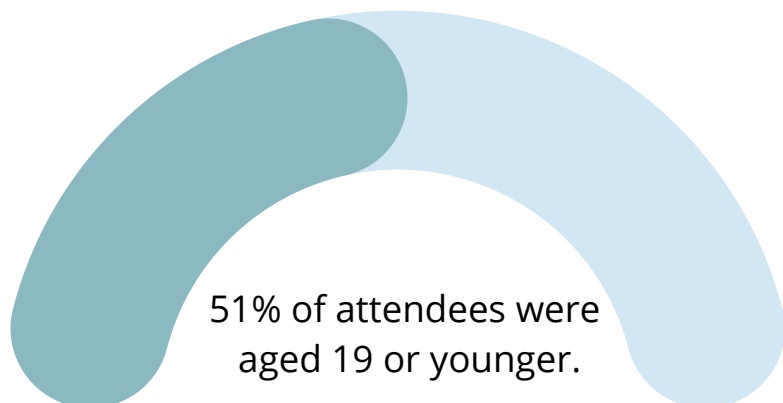
THE MEETING

The meeting took place on Tuesday 23rd March 2021 and due to Covid-19 restrictions was held remotely on Zoom.

The topic for the SYMBOL meeting was Education and Covid-19. We discussed good practise during the pandemic, both homeschooling and in education settings. We also discussed what could be changed or done differently to help those children who may be struggling to make progress due to the changes in education.

Secondary schools, youth groups and colleges across Sefton were invited to bring along young people aged 13-19 to give their views on education over the past year. Sefton Young Advisors also contacted primary schools from across Sefton to get the views of children from year 3 to year 6 (aged 7 to 11).

22 young people, including Young Advisors, attended the virtual meeting along with 21 adults. For the purpose of this document when referring to a young person, we are referring to someone who is 19 or younger - who may still access compulsory education.



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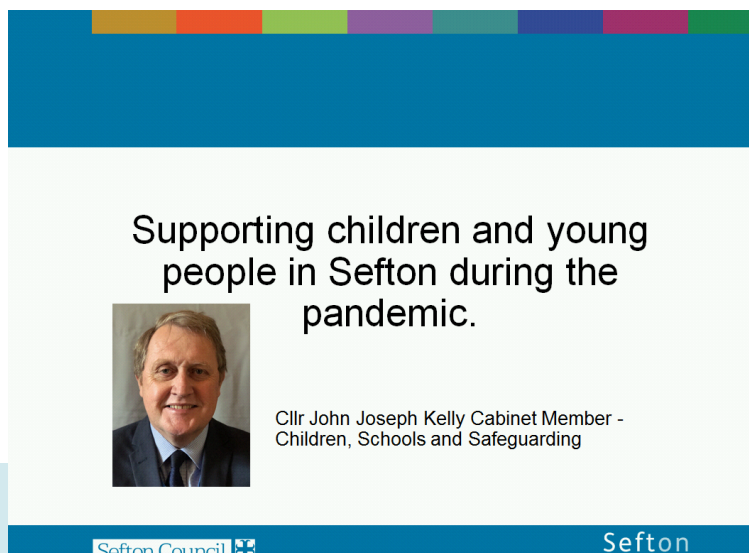
During the meeting Cllr John Joseph Kelly presented a short powerpoint outlining the Covid response from schools and colleges across Sefton. Information covered within the presentation included:

- Activities that schools and colleges have delivered
- Kooth - an online mental wellbeing support service
- Wellbeing Support
- Remote Learning
- Government Catch-up Programme


During the meeting, the SYMBOL attendees were split into breakout rooms on Zoom to allow for discussions about the main topics of the evening.

The first breakout room focused on good practise and the positives in education during Covid-19 and the second breakout room discussed what could be changed and made better for children who may have not made as much progress due to the pandemic.


Elected members and senior leaders across Sefton were invited into the discussions to gather the opinions of young people.



Supporting children and young people in Sefton during the pandemic.



Cllr John Joseph Kelly Cabinet Member - Children, Schools and Safeguarding

Sefton Council  Sefton

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POLL QUESTIONS

The first poll question asked all participants **if they were 19 or under or 20 and over.**

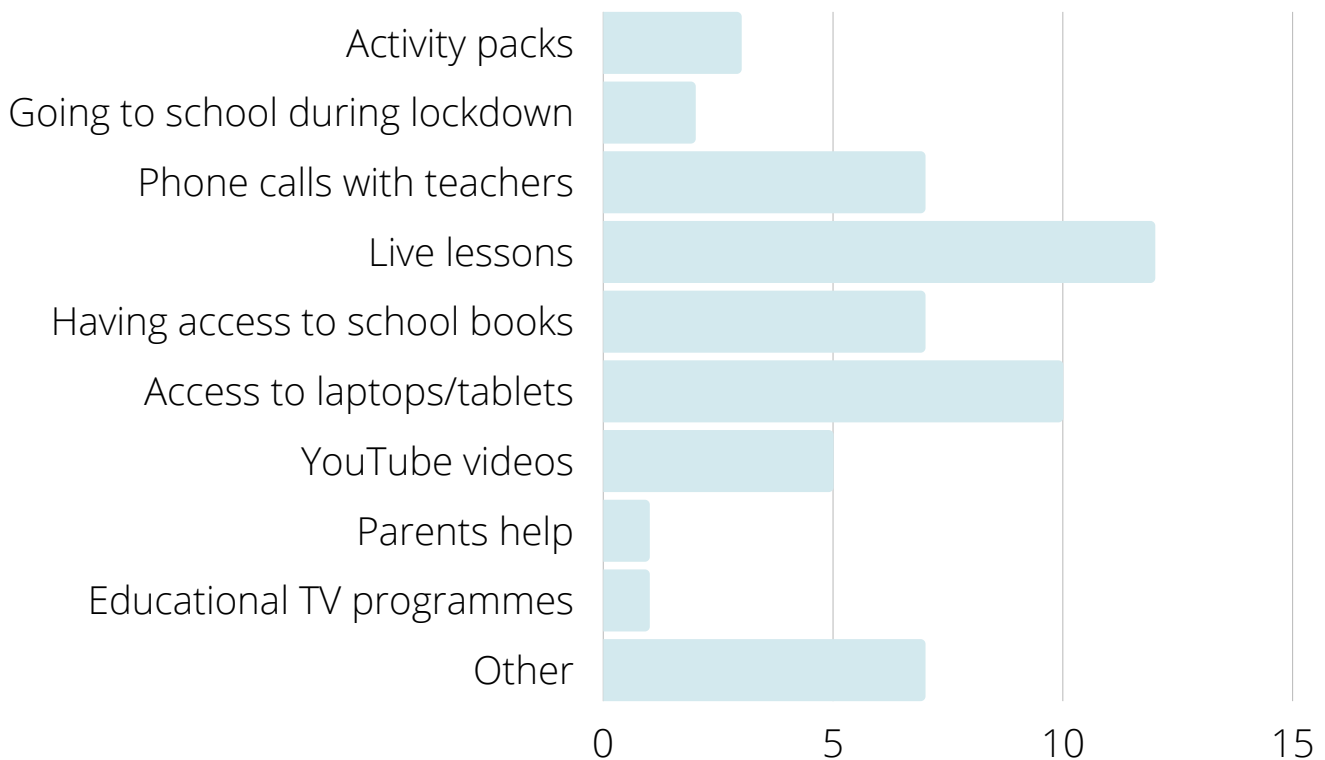
The answers given told us:

- 22 people were 19 or under
- 21 people were 20 and over

The next poll question asked those aged 19 or younger:

During Covid-19, what has helped you with your learning? (select all that apply)

The answers given told us:



The answers selected by young people formed the discussion for our first breakout room workshop.

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BREAK OUT ROOM 1

WHAT HAS HELPED WITH LEARNING DURING COVID-19?

Young people discussed in break out rooms via Zoom what has helped them with their learning during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Young people told us:

- Live lessons have had a major impact
- Summer school
- Activity packs
- One-to-one tutor mentoring
- Weekly check-ins with school staff
- Online resources have improved since the first lock down making it easier to learn online



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"I liked being able to email my teacher after the live-lessons so that I could get more support"

"My hairdressing course at college has still been interactive even though it is a practical course"



"I have enjoyed having time to catch up with my friends on Teams in-between lessons"

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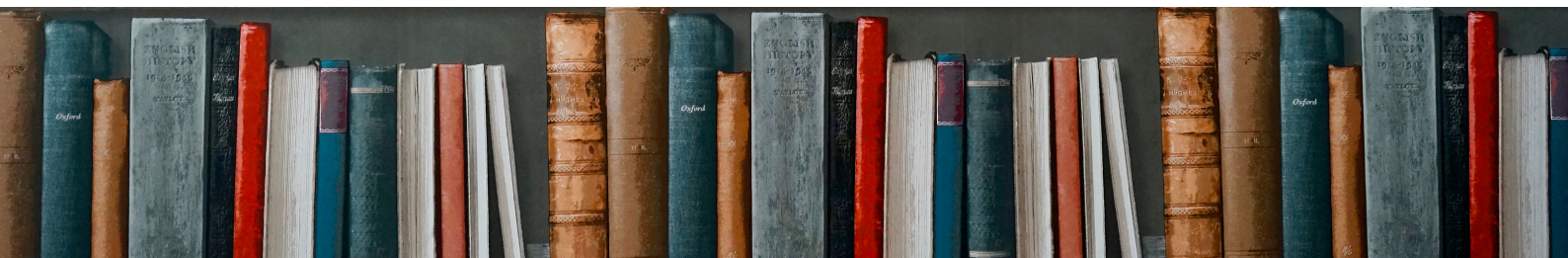
BREAK OUT ROOM 2

WHAT COULD BE CHANGED TO HELP CHILDREN WHO HAVE STRUGGLED TO MAKE PROGRESS?

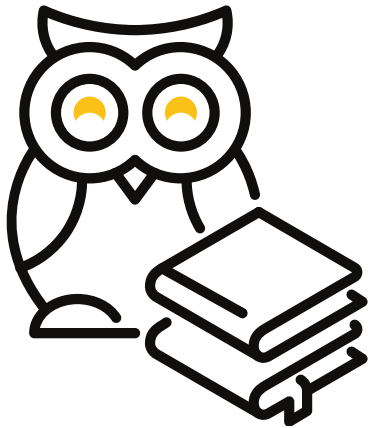
Young people discussed in breakout rooms via Zoom what they think could be changed to help children who have struggled to make progress during the pandemic.

Young people told us:

- Smaller study groups at lunch time
- A gradual transition back into the classroom
- Being able to go into school
- Having access to work before the lessons to be able to familiarise themselves
- Support from organisations such as CAHMS
- Catch up days

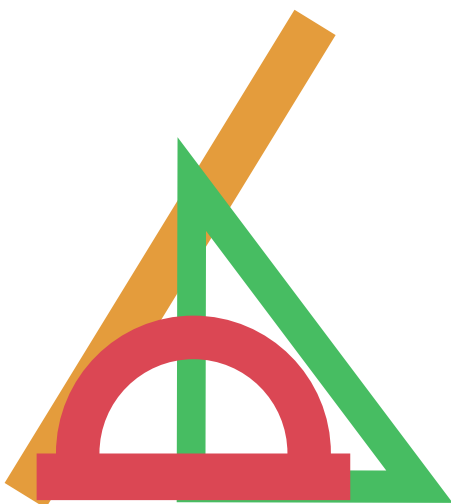
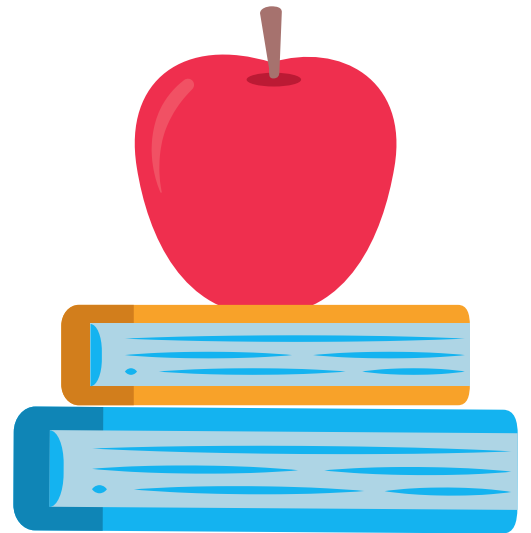


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"I think having smaller groups focusing on work so that we can help each other, instead of whole class."

"Time extensions on work as we need time away from the screens."



"I think having the full school experience such as introducing trips would help people catch up."

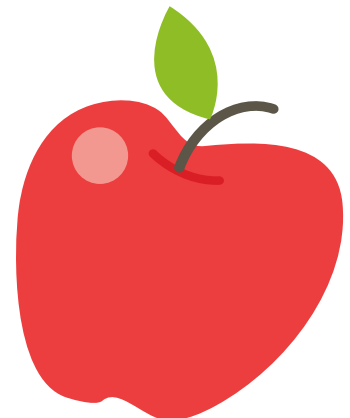
09 PRIMARY PUPILS THOUGHTS

We linked in with 3 primary schools from across Sefton to hear their views on Education and Covid-19. In total, we heard views from 111 children ranging in age from 7 to 11. We asked the primary school children the same questions asked in our SYMBOL meeting.

In regards to what has helped them to learn over the Covid-19 pandemic.

Primary pupils told us:

- Google Classroom was a great tool, work was marked each day and returned to see how pupils were getting on
- Loom clips were useful
- JamBoard was a great tool for class discussions
- The ability to send private messages if pupils needed help
- Using iPads and laptops at home
- Using the BBC website
- Lessons set online from Oak Academy



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In regards to what could be changed to help pupils who have struggled to make progress.

Primary pupils told us:

- More English and Maths lessons
- Reading and Times Tables homework
- Extra opportunities to allow for extra reading
- Opportunity to spend time with friends to encourage social skills
- PE sessions for health and wellbeing
- Making lessons such as Maths and English more practical, a change from being sat down at a screen



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sefton Young Advisors would like to thank the following for their involvement in SYMBOL:

- Sefton Council
- Sefton CVS
- Summerhill Primary School
- Farnbrough Road Primary School
- Kingsmeadow Primary School
- Formby High School
- Maghull High School
- Chesterfield High School
- Hugh Baird College
- Y-Kids
- Buddy Up
- Brunswick Youth and Community Centre
- Phoenix Youth Centre