

Keynsham Mencap Children's Social Clubs

Combined Impact Report 2025

Transforming lives through weekly social clubs for children with learning disabilities and autism

What Families Tell Us

100%

Rated 4–5 stars for overall satisfaction

100%

Feel welcomed and included by staff & volunteers

100%

Communication rated "Excellent" or "Good"

100%

Score 9–10/10 for recommending to another parent

"We were isolated before. Now we have found "our people" and that has increased both our quality of life."

-Parent

How The Club Helps Our Children

Confidence

All parents report improved confidence. Children are happier, braver, and willing to overcome fears and try new things.

Independence

All parents report increased independence. Children manage group activities, attend without parents, and navigate social situations more confidently.

Friendships & Belonging

All parents report children have made new friends. Families say "my child finally has somewhere they fit in" and peers who understand them.

Communication & Social Skills

All parents see improved communication and social skills. More willingness to interact, waiting turns, sharing, and increased verbal communication.

Trying New Things

All children are more willing to try new activities. Real breakthroughs: children overcome fears and engage with activities they previously avoided.

Reduced Isolation & Loneliness

All parents report reduced isolation. Children have weekly peer connection, something to look forward to, and feel less alone.

"Z wouldn't leave my side ever. Now he happily goes into club by himself and is thriving."

"He gets excited for Thursdays! He never had something to look forward to every week before."

"This club has been a lifeline. My daughter never refuses to attend. She always looks forward to coming."

-Parents

Impact on Family Life

What Parents Tell Us

- **Reduced family stress & breathing space:** "It gives me breathing space and reduced stress. My child's happier which has impacted positively on the whole family."
- **Peer connection & shared understanding:** "We were isolated before. Now we have found our people and that has increased both our quality of life."
- **Safe, judgement-free zones:** Children thrive being themselves in an environment where they feel genuinely included and valued.
- **Affordable access to experiences:** Parents appreciate subsidised trips and activities: "We don't feel guilty not being able to afford fancy activities. He has club once a week."
- **Quality time with siblings:** "It enables us to spend time with our other child." Respite care benefits whole family wellbeing.

"You're doing amazing. My child has felt included, excited, and is given a chance to socialise outside school with children like themselves. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

-Parent

Looking Ahead

What Parents Want

- **Keep clubs going all year:** Families want the routine and would welcome clubs running consistently, including through school holidays.
- **More of what children love:** Parents highlight sports, animals, trips, food-based sessions, music, dance and arts as activities that really work and they'd like to see more of.
- **Make big events more manageable:** Families ask for age and sensory-aware planning at events so children who find noise or crowds hard can still stay and enjoy activities.
- **Reduce barriers to joining in:** Families value affordability and would appreciate continued subsidised trips, clear information about opportunities, and activities that all children can genuinely access.

With sustained funding, our children's social clubs can continue to be the lifeline where children discover they can be brave, make friends, and feel truly at home – transforming lives and giving families hope, connection and belonging.