

**WHIZZ
KIDZ**

**We're here
for young
wheelchair
users**

**Kidz Board
Manifesto**



Kidz Board Manifesto

This is what we stand for. It shows we care about the world we want and the issues that mean the most to us. It expresses what we believe and the changes we want to see.

About us

Kidz Board is a group of young wheelchair users who are proud to each represent a different area of the UK. We meet up several times a year, in person and online, and our job is to ensure that our voices and those of young people from our area are at the heart of every decision Whizz Kidz makes. We are passionate about raising awareness of the issues that affect us every day, and we campaign to make a real difference to young wheelchair users.



Priority 1

Employment



“ Young wheelchair users have a big contribution to make to the world of work.

We believe that:

- Young wheelchair users have essential ideas and contributions to make to the world of work. Since the pandemic, we've proved that flexible working is possible. We should stick to this new, better 'normal'. It has opened the world of work for young wheelchair users and potentially created a huge recruitment market for employers.
- When discussing careers, ask us what we want to achieve. Don't tell young people what they can and can't do.
- Companies shouldn't make assumptions about hiring wheelchair users. There is lots of help and support for companies that many aren't aware of, like the Access to Work scheme.
- Make online work placements and apprenticeships available and an option for young wheelchair users to gain valuable experience to get into the world of work.



Priority 2

Education

“ Don't tell young wheelchair users what they can and can't do – ask us, talk to us. Don't define our path.

We believe that:

- Teachers, schools and universities should be asking what young people want and working on how to support those dreams.
- We shouldn't just be aiming for equality – we should be aiming for equity; don't give us the same that everyone else has. Let's work together to help us all achieve our goals.
- Young people should not have to worry about losing marks or being penalised for needing support.
- We want to see disability awareness in the curriculum – representing disability history and our struggles.
- We want better training and support for all colleagues in schools, universities and colleges on working successfully with young wheelchair users.

Priority 3

Travel



“ No young wheelchair user should have to fear travelling alone.

We believe that:

- Vital improvements are needed now to infrastructure, passenger information and facilities so that the travel network is more accessible to young wheelchair users.
- Young wheelchair users need to be involved in the planning, designing and auditing of services and policies so that our voices are heard at every level.
- There needs to be better public understanding so people respect wheelchair users' right to travel. We should not feel scared or unable to travel alone.
- More wheelchair users should be represented in travel marketing materials so that people can see what we can do, not what they can't.



Priority 4

Accessibility

“ Accessibility first and always – it cannot be an afterthought.

We believe that:

- Companies should work with young wheelchair users to ensure their space is accessible.
- Every new building should be accessible – the help is there to make this happen, starting today.
- We want to see significant changes to the leisure industry – young wheelchair users should be able to access cinema, music venues, and gyms in the UK just like our peers.
- The outdoors is for everyone to enjoy. We need every natural place – beach, forest, hill and meadow – to be accessible to wheelchair users so they can experience the physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits of being in nature.

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Finally, we believe that diversity and inclusion are central to everything we do. There is **“nothing about us, without us”**. Anything depicting young wheelchair users’ lives or sharing our stories must include wheelchair users.

There needs to be greater representation of disabled people in the entertainment industry (film, music, advertising etc.), and we need to move away from stigma or pity and focus on empowerment, our rights and our voice.



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Our job is to make sure the voices of young wheelchair users are at the heart of every decision Whizz-Kidz makes.

Ella, Kidz Board Chair

