

AV1 Report



No Isolation 

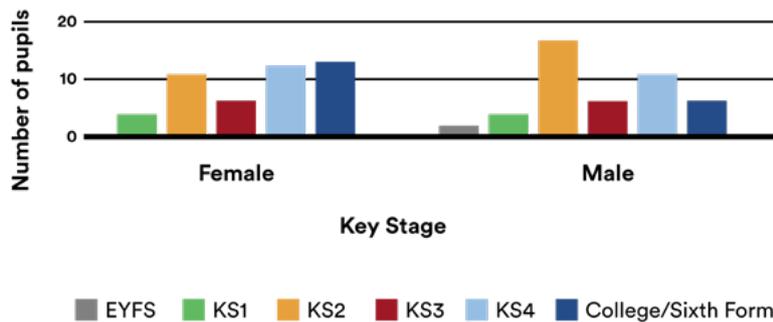


Summary of the AV1 robot use to date

Somerset County Council’s (SCC) investment in the latest robot technology helps to ensure absent pupils can continue to access education when not in the classroom. The Council has invested in 50 AV1 robots to support students who can’t be in school – whether it’s because they are sick or overcoming physical or mental health challenges. Currently 20 robots are on loan out of the 50.

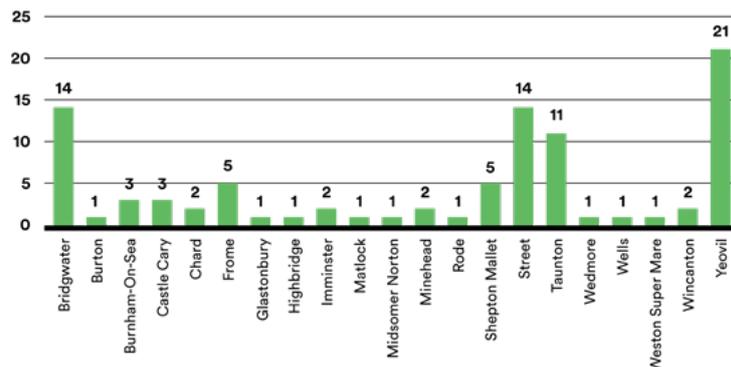
93 children and young people have used the AV1 robots to date to support their education. Below is the breakdown of users by gender and key stage, which shows that the robots are most popular in KS2 and KS4. Robots are mainly hired by higher educational settings for female users. AV1 robots are used almost equally by male and female pupils (51% and 49% respectively).

Breakdown of users by gender and key stage



The following graph shows where the robots are being used across Somerset. Strode College has hired the most robots to date and currently have 6 on loan for the 2021/22 academic year. As the robots are available to all Somerset children, a robot was in North East Somerset (Midsomer Norton) where a Somerset child is a pupil.

Location



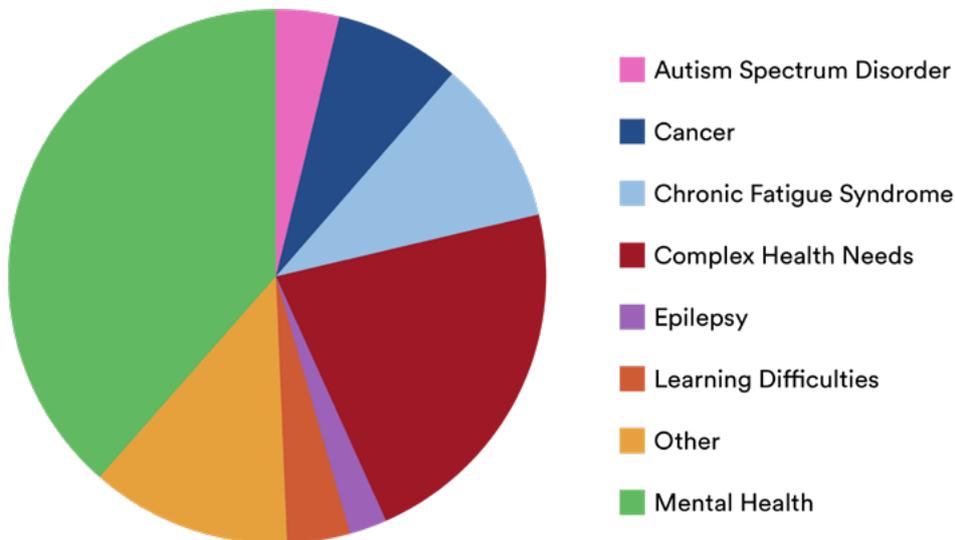
! What is AV1?

The AV1 robot is placed on a desk in the classroom, while the child at home controls it from their smartphone or tablet. The child can see, hear and be heard in the lesson through their AV1.

This enables them to participate as if they were physically present. One of the features that sets AV1 apart from other remote learning tools is that it can be carried between classes and out to the playground. This ensures the student doesn't miss any part of school life.



Reasons for requiring an AV1 robot



The majority of AV1 robots have been hired for pupils who are currently suffering with mental health, with the most frequent cause for absence being severe anxiety. The second highest cause for absence has been complex health needs. These include pupils with life limiting conditions as well those those recovering from surgery.

Successes

In 2021, there was a press release to promote this project. Furthermore, at the end of 2019, we were able to promote on BBC PointsWest and BBC Somerset Radio, which allowed us to spread the message and ensure schools in Somerset were aware of the support that SCC could provide to vulnerable pupils.

65 schools have already asked to use a robot to support pupils who cannot physically be in the classroom, including throughout the Covid-19 crisis. Nationally, there are an estimated 522,000 pupils who are frequently absent from school due to long-term illness. In Somerset, 35 children are referred for extra support for medical reasons every year.

Our success has allowed us to support other counties with the implementation of AV1 robots. We have shared our loan system, resources and useful hints and tips with Greater Manchester, Brighton, Gloucestershire, Solihull, Trafford, Dorset and Warwickshire councils. This is important as it shows how we have used technology to improve the lives of vulnerable children in Somerset and helped other local authorities to achieve the same. Other counties have been really grateful for our support and have applied our help to their own robot initiatives.

Finally, SCC's robot initiative was recognised by the MJ Awards as we were finalists in the digital transformation category. This highlights the scale of our initiative and how SCC are using technology to positively impact young people in Somerset.





Case Studies

Strode College

One of Somerset’s educational establishments that is reaping the benefits of these cyber assistants is Strode College in Street. Strode College initially started by renting two AV1 robots in 2020 and has since loaned ten more from Somerset County Council. Amy Pope, Additional Learning Support Manager at Strode College, said:

“ We have used the AV1s with multiple students and most have engaged with it well. One particular student, whose mental health was particularly poor, joined lessons with the AV1 on the days he felt up to it. ”

“ Other students have used them more continuously to help access their lessons remotely. This included one student, with complex medical needs, who needed to shield during the pandemic. ”

Chilthorne Domer Church School

Chilthorne Domer Church School is a primary school in Somerset catering to students aged 4-11. Georgina Smith, Class Teacher and SENCO at Chilthorne Domer Primary School, said:

“ We’ve been using AV1 for over 2 years now. We had a student that was diagnosed with an illness and was due to be out of school for a long period of time whilst she accessed treatment. She was in year one at the time. Quite quickly, her whole world was turned upside down. We heard about the AV1 and it was, without a doubt, a life changing option for her. ”

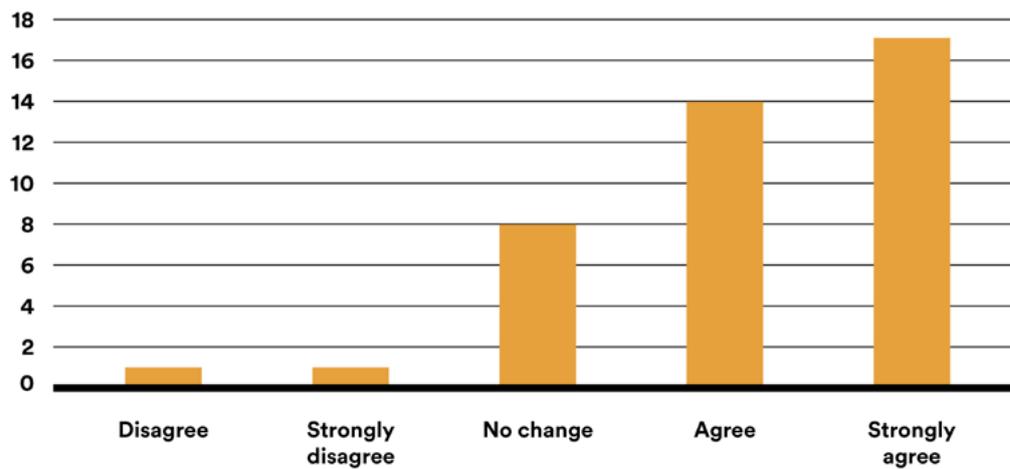
“ The impact that it has had is immeasurable. I don’t think I can put it into words. The sense of belonging and stability this has given her is priceless. Two years down the line she’s still using it which shows what a massive role this has played in her early school experience. To us, it’s not about the academics, it’s just about her being able to be there with us. ”



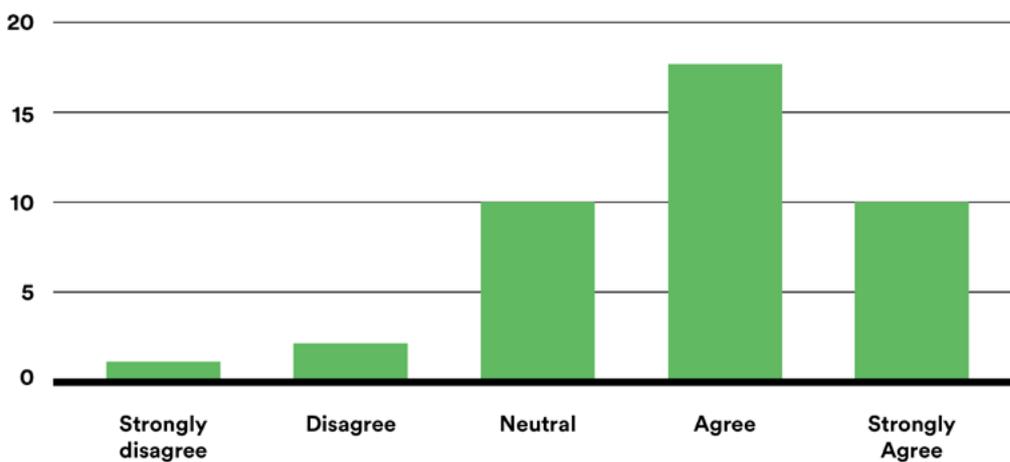
Feedback from Educational Settings:

Since the implementation of this project, we have received 39 survey responses. The feedback shows the impact that the AV1 robots are having on pupils and schools across Somerset.

AV1 is having an overall positive affect on the student and their ability to attend school



The teacher and class enjoy the use of the AV1 in the classroom





Quotes from schools:

“

We have used AV1 robots with a number of pupils and the majority have found it beneficial being able to access lessons from home.

”

“

It has made OP really included in everything. It would have been a very lonely 18 months for OP if she hadn't have had it.

”

“

It has enabled our child to continue to enjoy school events such as visiting authors. She has always felt part of the class.

”

“

We have used the AV1 robot in a slightly different way as the student concerned has ASD and was struggling with attending lessons after Covid, but was able to emotionally regulate herself, less meltdowns and increased ability to cope. All of these were better and therefore continued at school much more successfully than without the robot.

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Somerset County Council and No Isolation continue to assess the impact of AV1 robots through research, usage data and feedback from those using the technology.



To find out more about our AV1s go to:
supportservicesforeducation.co.uk/Services/5586

To hire an AV1 robot go to:
<https://bit.ly/32MTBg1>



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