

How should schools support children on the autism

Our team supports settings and professionals to ensure that 'ordinarily available' provision is effectively implemented for children with a diagnosis on the autism spectrum. We also offer support when the needs of a child go beyond what is 'ordinarily available' and the child may have or require an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

The following considerations should be included in what is 'ordinarily available' for every child on the autism spectrum in a Barnet Maintained School (with or without an EHCP):

- ⇒ Environmental factors - how these may impact on learning and how they can be adapted effectively.
- ⇒ Flexible approaches to teaching.
- ⇒ Focus on developing social communication skills.
- ⇒ Training— providing staff with a basic level of knowledge and skills.

Details of what is "ordinarily available" can be found by searching *The Local Offer* at www.barnet.gov.uk



How to access the Autism Advisory Team

The team is accessed through completion of a *Child Development referral form* which should be completed by an education professional (usually the SENCo) of the Barnet maintained school at which the child is attending. The education professional making the referral should:

- Call a member of the autism advisory team for a brief discussion regarding the needs of the child. The school may be asked to complete a pre-referral checklist and/or the referral form.
- Ensure the child has a diagnosis of autism.
- Discuss the referral form with the child's parents/carers.

Contact Us

For general enquires email us at **autism.team@barnet.gov.uk**

Autism Advisory Team

London Borough of BARNET

We are a team made up of qualified teachers and specialist practitioners who specialise in the area of supporting children and young people on the Autism Spectrum. We aim to ensure that children have the opportunity to reach their full potential in all areas of development including academic, social and emotional wellbeing.

We work to support Barnet mainstream schools (primary and secondary) by offering:

- A variety of autism specific training and workshops packages.
- School visits - including joint observations and feedback meetings to develop individual SEN plans.
- Bespoke support and advice in implementing autism specific strategies.
- Attendance at key professionals meetings.

Our Ethos and Approaches

Every child is special and unique. Children on the autism spectrum can experience the world in a unique way that should be explored and utilised when helping them learn. The Autism Education Trust (AET) identify four key areas of difference:



Whilst exploring these areas of difference we adopt a multidisciplinary model of support called the Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support (SCERTS) model in order to assess and plan for the needs of a child.

When exploring these four areas of difference we use SCERTS to look at what the child is doing and also what other people/the environment is doing. SCERTS stands for:

“SC” - Social Communication – the development of communication skills, emotional expression, and the formation of meaningful relationships with children and adults;

“ER” - Emotional Regulation - developing the ability to maintain a well-regulated emotional state and to cope with everyday stress. This is essential in order to be available for learning and interacting;

“TS” – Transactional Support – the development and implementation of supports in response to the child’s needs and interests. Adults working with children on the autism spectrum need to be able to modify and adapt the environment, and provide tools to enhance learning (e.g. picture communication, written schedules and sensory supports).

Training

Improving knowledge and skills

We are an Autism Education Trust (AET) training hub and provide training to schools both centrally and in schools.

Barnet Autism Education Trust Satellite Hub



Tier 1: Making Sense of Autism

A 90 minute introduction to autism for all school staff .

Tier 2: Good Autism Practice

This one day course offers practical knowledge, hands-on tools and techniques for all staff working directly with pupils on the autism spectrum.