

North Midlands Autism in Schools Pilot

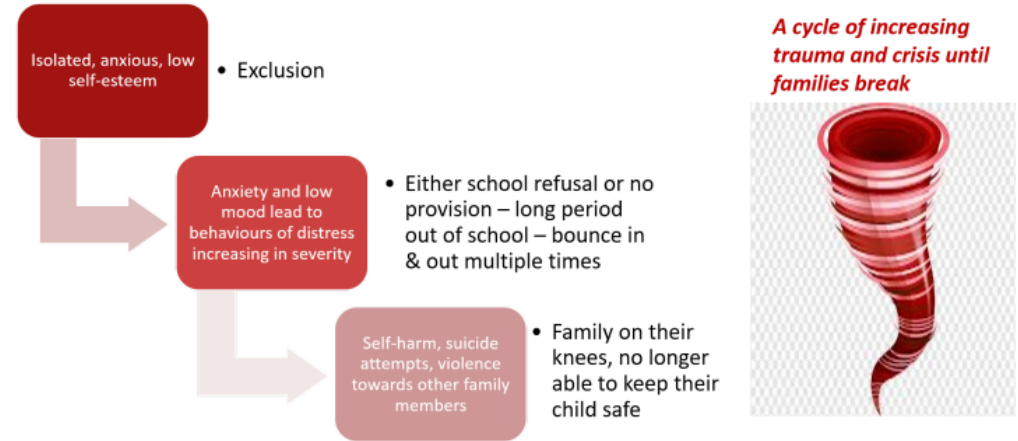


**STW Learning Disability & Autism
Programme Board - March 2020**

Aim of the pilot

This is a cross system project to improve experience and outcomes for Autistic students in mainstream schools. This will include the development of school workforce and leadership to ensure that mainstream schools offer capable environments in which autistic students can thrive, supporting good mental health and promoting inclusion for this group of young people. There will also be a focus on ensuring that key transition points for autistic students are supported effectively, ensuring a positive experience in terms of change and moving forward.

The journey from exclusion to inpatient care



Government figures show that autistic children are twice as likely to be excluded from school either for a fixed period or permanently as pupils with no special educational needs.

Overview:

“Autism is a difference and not a deficit. Differences are not to be fixed. My normal is different to your normal and the aim shouldn't be conformity but wellbeing.”

Pilot area - Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent

12 schools participating across pilot. Local schools are:

Charlton Secondary

Dot Hill Primary

Shrewsbury Academy

The Marches

Oakmeadow Primary

The Grange Primary

Four Elements:

- A Learning and Development Programme which seeks to develop a positive school environment for autistic pupils through reasonable adjustments and understanding.
- Developing school-based participation building on and supported by the Parent Carer Forums in each local authority area.
- Building a new relationship between CAMHS and schools which is focused on developing autism friendly environments and practice.
- Hearing from Children and Young People with Autism and developing self-awareness and resilience.

Learning & Development

Creating a capable environment - what action will you take?

“Change my own personal practice but also training other staff about the importance of relationships and not judging behaviour on the surface but to look deeper at why it is happening.”

Understanding Behaviour as Communication

The link Between Home and School

Creating an Autism Friendly Environments

Thinking about Autistic Communication

Restorative Practice and Building Positive Relationships?

Whole school approaches and Staff Wellbeing

Developing School Based Parent Carer Participation

"I felt better just knowing that your morning had been a bit difficult too"

"I don't know of anyone else in the school with a SEND child"

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT GROUPS WITH MARCHES ACADEMY TRUST



Open to Parent Carers of children with SEND at the Marches School, Oakmeadow Primary, the Grange Primary, and Shrewsbury Academy Schools
To be sent the link for any of our virtual meetings, please email enquiries@paccshropshire.org.uk



Friday 1st April - EHCP's and Annual Reviews
We explore Shropshire EHCP & Annual Review process



Monday 4th April - Out of school activities & SEND
We talk about what is available & how your child can participate in out of school activities



Wednesday 6th April - An introduction to Autism West Midlands
We invite AWM to share with families the support they can offer



Parent Engagement Groups -
We will be continuing the offer to join us to talk about SEND in your child's school with online and face to face sessions being scheduled. Please keep an eye out for emails inviting you to join us.

Building a New Relationship Between Schools and CAMHS

Part of supporting and implementing change
Between 10 and 15 hours of support being
provided to each school

Not based on individual referrals but
responding to needs of whole school

Specific training as requested

Developing a partnership approach

Autism Confident Course

Developed by Autism West Midlands to provide the opportunity for young people either diagnosed with autism or waiting for assessment to learn more about autism in a small, supportive, group setting. It provides an opportunity to discuss individual experiences, hear the experiences of others, and identify strategies that could help in their day-to-day life.

Creative Workshops with Ignition

- 1.5 - 2hr creative workshop for each school participating in the Pilot in Shropshire or Telford & Wrekin during February and March 2022
- A short story / creative writing competition asking all local children and young people to share their experiences of autism and school life (launched for Autism Acceptance Week)
- 2 further, more detailed workshops (school locations to be identified) to explore in more detail the themes from the initial workshops, during April 2022
- Development of 'talking heads' script and production of short film to share the experiences of children and young people, during May, June and July 2022
- The production of PSHE resources reflecting the learning from the above activity will be developed along side the above activity and be available for schools from Sept 2022.

Hearing from Children and Young People about Autism and school

"Just wanted to let you know the Ignition workshop was really successful - Hannah was great with our children and they really benefitted from it , as I said to her for a couple of them even just being there was a huge step."

Pilot Newsletters:

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/orth-midlands-autism-in-schools-pilot-newsletter>

<http://www.paccshropshire.org.uk/orth-midlands-autism-in-schools-pilot-feb-2022-newsletter>

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THE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY EDUCATION REPORT (2021)

What did autistic children say:



- 54% said they needed quiet spaces to go to when there is a problem
- 7 in 10 said that the thing that would make the biggest difference was having teachers who understood autism
- Only 26% felt happy at school and only 24% felt included at school.
- Only 1 in 12 autistic children thought their peers knew enough about autism. Being bullied by their peers was a common experience for autistic children.
- Being seen by teachers as rude, awkward, purposefully disruptive was also a common theme for autistic children