

Autism Specialist Support Team

The Autism Specialist Support Team have been delivering services to children, schools, and others in Norfolk for over 25 years. They have a remit to support children in schools and local authority pre-school settings. The Autism Specialist Support Team would not be directly involved in work with children in the family home.

Autism practitioners provide a range of services in connection with children with Autism or difficulties in the area of social communication. These include:

- consultation with staff;
- training;
- advice regarding strategies and approaches;
- information about suitable materials;
- Direct work with children both individually and in groups.
- Delivery of the DfE supported Autism Education Trust Programme of training to upskill school staff and enable them to better support autistic children and young people.

[Autism Education Trust](#)

The focus is on practical aspects of the child's social communication skills which are a barrier to their achievement in the setting or school. Approaches include:

- work to develop social skills;
- social stories;
- construction of visual timetables and prompts;
- use of accredited approaches such as TEACCH and the Picture Exchange Communication System.

An integral part of the Autism Specialist Support Team involvement is the collaboration with schools and settings, usually with Teachers and frequently with Teaching Assistants (TAs) assigned in schools to work with specific children. Wherever possible, a key component of the involvement is to support the TA to take forward and develop the work.

Criteria for Requests

The Autism Specialist Support Team may provide interventions on the following basis.

- Where, for an identified child, there is a clear diagnosis which places the child on the Autistic Spectrum; or
- In consultation with the Autism Team Co-ordinator managing the team, it is deemed appropriate to involve the Autism SSA team in a specific role relating to a child's social communication difficulties.
- A school or setting seeks information or training in practical matters in relation to Autism.

The Autism Specialist Support Team would not be involved in the following activities.

- Advice about curriculum matters other than the impact of the child's learning style in relation to the social communication difficulties. Curriculum issues would generally be addressed by a Specialist Learning Support Teacher.
- Psychological assessment of children. This would generally be addressed by an Educational or Clinical Psychologist.
- Making a clinical diagnosis.

