

Greater Manchester Autism Schools Project

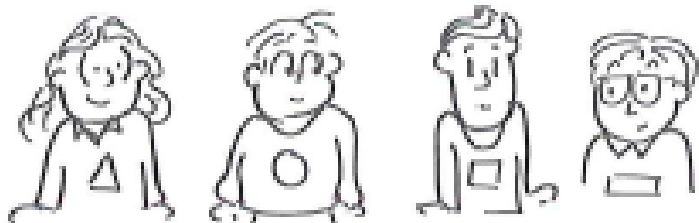


Why do the autism in schools project?

To ensure that autistic / neurodiverse children and young people and get the right support and reach their potential

To develop an integrated response by listening and working with parents, children and professionals from health, education and social care

Improving understanding and acceptance of autism / neurodiversity within society



every child is different - embrace difference

Outline of the Greater Manchester project

Four areas: Manchester, Rochdale, Oldham and Wigan. 13 schools across Greater Manchester.

Mix of needs and ages across the schools to inform future spread across the remaining six GM localities.

Parents and Carers and Children and Young People will be front and centre in driving this work to ensure all voices are heard and that we are drawing on lived experience.

Parent Carer Forums are a strategic partner and project lead. They will support set up of mini parent groups within schools.

We will look to build on ongoing work in each local area supporting children and young people to make meaningful friendships and feel less isolated.

We will be developing a strong training programme to increase knowledge of autism and neurodiversity for the whole school, parents and community.

What will each partner within the project do?

Manchester Parent Carer Forum

Parent Carer Forums (PCF) will be front and centre in driving this work as a strategic partner to ensure all voices are heard and to ensure co-production is visible throughout the project, drawing on the CYP and parents lived experience. We see this as opportunity to change behaviour and culture universally across GM. It will support a shared understanding and appreciation of differing worlds (school and home) where the child is seen as one and there is shared understanding and respect. Mini parent groups will be set up in each school.

A strong training programme for knowledge of autism and special educational needs for the whole school, parents and community.

What will each partner within the project do?

School

- Support coffee mornings for pupils and families
- Support training for school staff – how to better support pupils with Autism

What will each partner within the project do?

Other partners

Staff from the local authority, health and CAMHS, educational psychology, National Autistic Society and SENDIASS are working with the Parent Carer Forum and schools to support this programme – including delivering training and looking at how to improve services and support for families.

What we are hoping to achieve

Autistic/neurodiverse young people will have greater opportunities to meet and socialise with other neurodiverse young people and will be engaging with social activities that match their interests

School staff report improved understanding and confidence in how to identify and support pupils with social communication needs

School staff know how to facilitate friendship groups for neurodiverse young people

School attendance will improve

School exclusions will reduce

Children will be happier in school.

All school staff including teaching and support staff will demonstrate inclusive practice

What we are hoping to achieve

Parent/carers have better understanding of provision, interventions and support strategies for their child and are more satisfied with education, health and care services

Trust and respect will be built between families and schools

Parent groups in mainstream schools provide parents with peer support and the opportunity to influence and co-produce service changes

Early Help and other frontline services report improved understanding of autism/social communication difficulties. Earlier intervention reduces escalation to specialist services

Referral routes into specialist services will be smooth and timely (when required)

There will be a reduction in social isolation for young people and parents/carers

Surveys

We are asking parents and carers, young people and school staff to complete surveys to help us find out what are the most important things they want from this project.

This will help us design a training programme and other activities for parents, young people, school and other staff.

Please complete the parent carer survey: <https://forms.gle/akEqxGitnKS3KsXf8>

Thank you – any questions?

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