

Accessing parental support

Working with parents & carers

Parent/carers views and knowledge is integral to understanding the child or young person's needs and identifying appropriate support and approaches. This information will be gathered as part of making a referral to AOT, at the referral meeting and then during school review meetings as appropriate.

Following Autism Outreach contacts or visits, we will share notes or a report with the pupil's school. It is the school or SENCo's responsibility to pass on information to parents/carers.

Where parents/carers have a query or concern about the support being provided to their child in school, parents should first contact the school to discuss (usually the SENCo). If appropriate, parents/carers may then request a meeting with the school with AOT staff present to resolve any queries or concerns.

If parents have ongoing concerns about the support their child is receiving in school and do not feel that these concerns are being addressed, then they should contact SENDIASS. SENDIASS (formerly the Parent Partnership) is an independent service that offers free, confidential and impartial information, advice and support to parents and carers of young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) as well as young people themselves.

T: 0116 305 5614 Email: sendiass@leics.gov.uk

Support available for parents & carers

Autism Outreach are a school-based service, so we do not work directly with parents/carers or offer support in the home.

We are able to offer a termly Parent Workshop – please contact AOStraining.leics.gov.uk for further details.

Parents can find further sources of information and support on the Local Offer: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disability/where-to-start-with-send/what-is-the-local-offer>

The Autism Outreach Team Specialist Teaching Services Leicestershire County Council



A guide to our service for parents & carers

September 2023

Who are we?

The Autism Outreach Team (AOT) is part of Leicestershire's Children & Family Services' **Specialist Teaching Service**. The Specialist Teaching Service also includes the Hearing Support Team, Vision Support Team, Learning Support Team and Assistive Technology for Education Support Team (ATfEST).

The Autism Outreach Team (AOT) are specialist teachers and practitioners who support education staff in Leicestershire's maintained schools and academies to develop improved understanding of Autism and to identify and implement strategies to support autistic children and young people.

What do we do?

The Autism Outreach Team provides specialist information and advice to support Leicestershire's maintained schools and academies schools to meet the needs of autistic pupils.

- Provide a wide range of training packages to schools
- Promote and share good autism practice
- Offer pupil-specific advice and recommendations

Where pupil-specific support is required, Leicestershire maintained schools and academies can make a referral to Autism Outreach for more focused support. This level of support may involve AOT observing the pupil in school, speaking directly with the child or young person, recommending strategies and approaches, delivering training to staff, attending meetings and signposting to other sources of support and information.

How our support is accessed

Autism Outreach support is accessed through a referral made by school staff, usually the SENCo, or a direct referral from the Early Years team. Parents will be asked to contribute their views and consent to this referral.

Once a referral is received, and it is felt that the criteria for AOT involvement has been met, a referral meeting is held between the Autism Outreach teacher, school staff and parents/carers to discuss the pupil's needs in greater detail and to decide on next steps.

Not all pupils with a diagnosis of autism will need to be referred to Autism Outreach. The needs of the pupil may be met by quality first teaching approaches and other reasonable adjustments and/or the school may have a high level of confidence and experience in meeting autistic children's needs. It is the school's responsibility to consider whether a referral to AOT is appropriate and necessary.

How to contact us

Autism Outreach Team
Specialist Teaching Services
Children & Family Services
Leicestershire County Council

STS@leics.gov.uk

0116 305 9400