



West Sussex Parent Carer Forum (WSPCF)

Autism in Schools project

Working well with your child or young person's school

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What is the Autism in Schools Project?

It is a transformative programme across 27 schools in West Sussex

It is an exciting collaboration between WSCCs' Autism and Social Communication Team and their SEND Commissioning Team, the West Sussex Parent Carer Forum, ASPENS charity and the West Sussex SEND Youth Voice Forum.

The project's key aims include:

- Whole school cultural change to promote positive autism support and practice.
- Working directly with autistic children offering them the individual support they need.
- Working with the West Sussex Parent Carer Forum to build networks of support for families

Each school involved will have the opportunity work towards achieving a WSCC Autism Aware Award which is reaccredited every three years to ensure continual progress.

OAIP

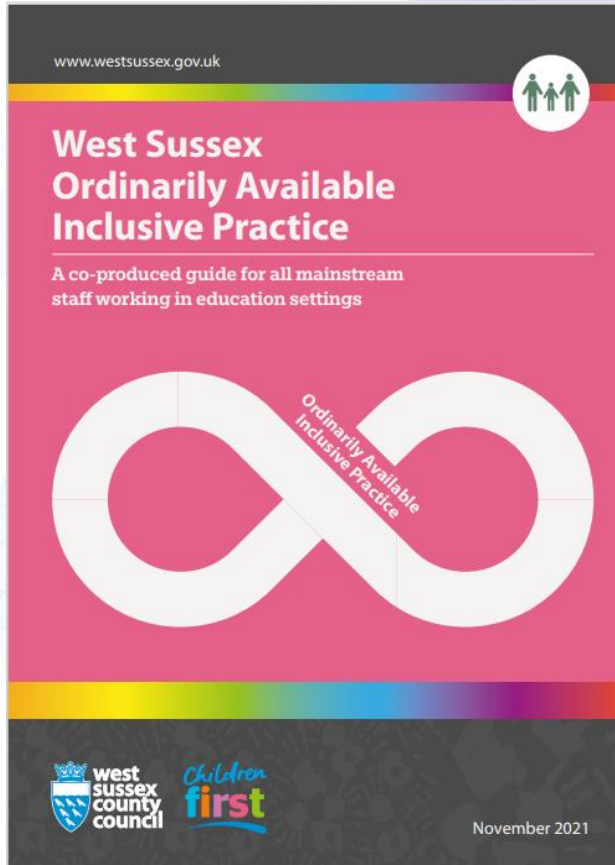


The OAIP is a guide for schools and Early years settings developed by West Sussex County Council which outlines how they can meet the additional needs of most children and Young People.

There is specific information about working in co-production with Parents on pages 14 and 15.

It may be worth looking at other sections of the OAIP this will help you have informed discussions.

This is the link to the whole document
[Ordinarily Available Inclusive Practice \(OAIP\) | Tools for schools \(local-offer.org\)](https://www.local-offer.org/)



Communication is Key

Fresh Start

- Many Parent Carers have negative experiences whilst their child is at school; they weren't believed when they first raised concerns, they were told their child was "fine" when they are at school, important information wasn't shared the list goes on.
- If it is possible, you should try and leave these problems behind to try and work with the school.
- It may be helpful to ask to discuss what has happened in the past so you can draw a line under it and the school can work to ensure these things don't happen in the future. You may wish to write an email always try to be clear, concise and professional.

Methods of communication

- Come to an arrangement with the school about the best way to communicate.
- Some schools have a simple document or flow chart clearly explaining who to communicate with and how.
- Make the school aware of your needs in terms of communication. Do you work and are not able to collect your child from school. Are you Neurodivergent yourself or is English an additional language.

Be Informed

- Read
- Talk to other parents who have already experienced what you are going through
- Attend Events
- Internet – be careful there is a lot of fake and dangerous information

Socials

- WSPCF
- Reaching Families
- Contact
- National Autistic Society, Reframing Autism, YMCA, RL, Family Fund, Short Breaks, NHS, Disabled Children's Partnership, Council for Disabled Children

Plan for success – be proactive

Prioritise – What are the main things your child needs support with and what do you feel would make a difference to them – don't forget the four broad areas of SEND

Social,
Emotional
and Mental
Health

Cognition &
Learning

Communication
& Interaction

Sensory or
Physical Needs

A child's voice and a Parent's voice should be sought before the ILP is written. If you think it is due soon, ask to input.

Ask for a copy Of the ILP or IEP and any notes that are made during meetings.

Plan ahead - keep notes as things come up to help you think about what your child needs.

If you are unsure about anything, ask questions.

Keep records this will help you to think about how to support your child and you can reflect on what has worked well and what hasn't.

If things aren't working well

- Ask for a meeting
- Keep lines of communication open
- Remain focused
- Seek Help



[\(IPSEA\) Independent Provider
of Special Education Advice](https://www.ipsea.org.uk/)

[West Sussex SENDIAS Service](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/SENDIAS/)



Signposting



Information from contact

[Extra support in school | Contact](#)



Fact sheet from Reaching Families

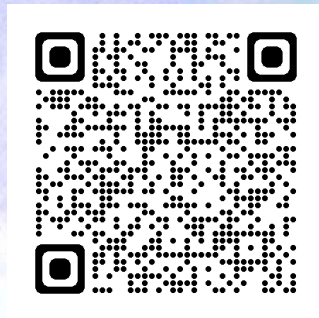
[RF SEN SUPPORT IN SCHOOL.pdf \(reachingfamilies.org.uk\)](#)



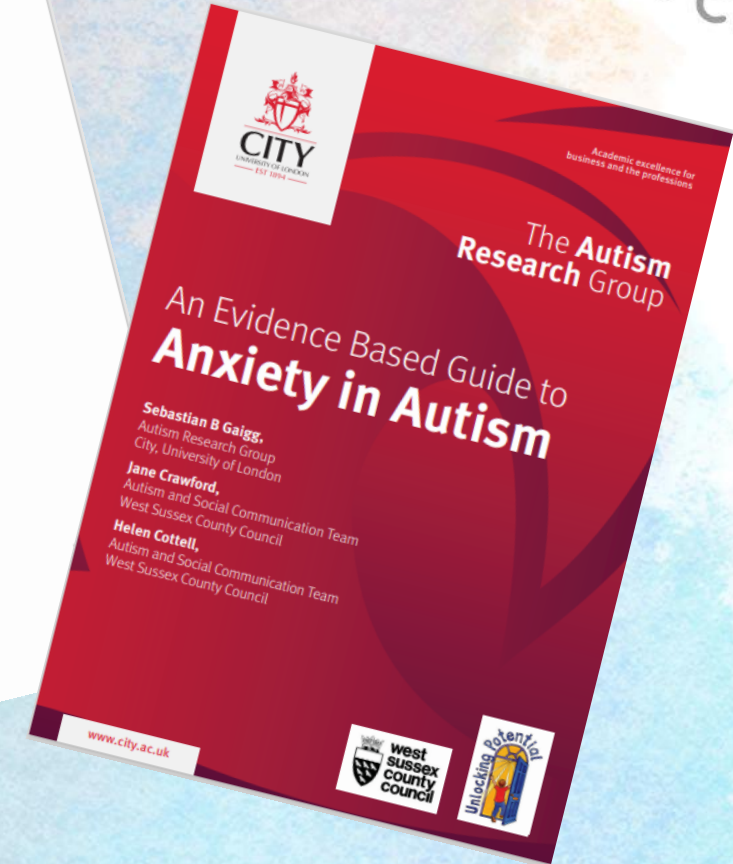
Working together with your Child's School From

The Autism Education Trust

[Parent Guide for Working Together with Your Child's School](#)
[\(autismeducationtrust.org.uk\)](#)



[Autism and Social Communication Team - ASCT | West Sussex Services for Schools](#)





Join WSPCF scan the QR code
Or click the link <https://rb.gy/zdit7x>

contact *For families
with disabled children*



**Reaching
Families**



Carers Support
West Sussex



Contact us

coproduction@wspcf.org.uk

for enquires about the Autism in schools Project

office@wspcf.org.uk for general enquires

You can also message us on Facebook
or call us on 07341 183449