

Feedback on the Autism and Social Communication Inclusion Team

Feedback from anyone who has accessed our service is appreciated and carefully considered. We may ask parents to complete a short evaluation to provide us with some feedback or suggestions for how we can develop and improve our service.

Contacts

For more information, the Autism and Social Communication Inclusion Team can be contacted as follows:

Autism and Social Communication Inclusion Team
Inclusion
Children, Young People, Education and Skills
PO Box 142, Highlands Campus
St. Saviour, JE4 8QJ

Email: inclusion@gov.je



The Autism and Social Communication Inclusion Team

What is the Autism and Social Communication Inclusion Team (ASCIT)?

ASCIT provides a visiting service to all Government of Jersey mainstream schools. Outreach support is provided by experienced staff including advisory teachers and lead teaching assistants.

What does ASCIT do?

The ASCIT has a role in supporting schools in their understanding and management of pupils presenting with autism or social communication differences. **Work undertaken will usually be through consultation with staff rather than direct contact with your child.**

Please note, the ASCIT is not the diagnostic service for autism.

Involvement from the service may consist of:

- Consultation with staff/parents/agencies for joint problem solving and sharing of ideas
- Information and training to schools about autism and social communication differences and how barriers to social and academic learning can be reduced
- Supporting parents to understand their child's social communication needs and advising on possible strategies to help and provide consistency of approach with the school
- Providing a range of strategies to more effectively meet pupils' identified needs relating to curriculum access, communication, social understanding, behaviour, sensory processing differences and emotional development
- Working with pupils diagnosed with autism to understand their specific needs in relation to their learning
- Advice on peer group awareness and social inclusion
- Signposting to other agencies where appropriate

Please Note:

ASCIT involvement is undertaken in line with current Covid-19 guidance.

How do I get access to the service?

If you have any concerns about your child's social communication skills (not necessarily with a diagnosis of autism) then you first need to speak to your child's class teacher or their school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo).

If the school feels that specialist advice is required, they will either request a general consultation or seek more individualised support by referring your child to the team. Casework and involvement is prioritised on a needs-led basis and referrals, if accepted, are allocated each half term.

Your signed consent and views will always be sought should school feel a request for involvement from the ASCIT is appropriate.

How might the ASCIT work to support my child?

The ASCIT may work with the school SENCo / your child's teacher and /or teaching assistant in the following ways:

- Observation in class and in social situations
- Use of checklists to identify strengths and difficulties; this might include sensory checklists which requires parental feedback
- Obtaining your child's point of view about preferences and dislikes
- If there are significant communication or sensory processing differences, the ASCIT may recommend referral to other specialist agencies, e. g. Speech and Language Therapy or Occupational Therapy
- Advice on the development of groups to develop social understanding
- Advise staff on how to implement strategies and individualised recommendations

How might the ASCIT support parents?

- We will usually ask the SENCo to arrange a joint consultation meeting at school to discuss your views/concerns
- We aim to help teachers and parents provide consistent approaches to supporting your child