

Feedback on the Autism and Social Communication Inclusion Team

Feedback from anyone who has accessed our service is appreciated and carefully considered. If you would like to provide us with some feedback or suggestions for how we can develop and improve our services, please contact us.

Contacts

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

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The Autism and Social Communication Inclusion Team

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

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

What does ASCIT do?

This outreach team has a role in supporting schools in their understanding and management of pupils presenting with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) or related social communication difficulties. Work undertaken will often be case-centred consultation, rather than regular direct contact with an individual pupil.

Support from the outreach support service may consist of:

- Consultation with staff/parents/agencies for joint problem solving and ideas
- Information and training to schools about autism and associated social communication difficulties and how barriers to social and academic learning can be reduced
- Preparation for change and transitions - advice to the school and/or to staff providing direct support
- 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 skills, behaviour, sensory processing differences and emotional development
- Working with pupils with ASCs to understand their particular needs
- Advice on peer group awareness and social inclusion

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 school staff.

If the school thinks the ASCIT may be able to help, they will refer your child to the team. Casework and support is allocated on a needs-led basis and referrals are allocated on a half termly basis.

Your permission will always be sought if the ASCIT are going to be formally involved in supporting your child.

How might the ASCIT work with my child?

The ASCIT may work with your child's teacher and/or assistant to design and implement appropriate strategies in the following ways:

- Observation in class and in social situations
- Using a range of checklists and assessments to identify strengths and difficulties
- Obtain your child's point of view about preferences and dislikes
- If there are significant communication or sensory differences, pupils may also be referred to other specialist agencies, e. g. Speech and Language Therapy or Occupational Therapy
- Support the development of social skills groups
- Help staff write targets, social stories and visual timetables

How ASCIT supports parents

- We will always make contact with you to discuss your views/concerns
- We ask the school to arrange a joint consultation meeting at your child's school
- We aim to help teachers and parents provide consistent approaches