



NEURODIVERSITY

HOW TO IDENTIFY AND SUPPORT

You know your child better than anyone else. You have valuable information that can be shared in order to make good decision about your child's education.

Neurodiversity describes the learning and thinking differences that young people may have, including autism, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and special educational needs.

'Some people's brains work differently from other people's. This means they learn and make friends differently too'

What are the common signs of neurodivergence?

1. Difficulty picking up social cues and communicating in social situations
2. Problems with speech and language
3. Physical tics or behaviours, like rocking
4. Sensitivity or insensitivity to light, sound, heat, crowds or other stimuli



It's vital that we all learn to understand the different learning styles so we can offer our children the very best opportunities to learn by adjusting lessons and learning time to suit their needs and their abilities.



Some examples to support children with neurodiverse needs;

- making available for all a range of resources and equipment such as pencil grips, phonetic dictionaries and helpful software - those who do not need them will not use them but being available for all reduces stigma
- producing written materials and signage which is clear, unambiguous and illustrated with helpful visuals
- having a clutter-free environment free of auditory and visual distractions
- ensuring all staff communicate clearly and consistently, allowing additional processing time and different ways of responding
- giving all students the opportunity to work in quiet areas when needed and to spend social times in quieter areas when required
- recognising that there are different – but equally valid – ways of doing things, and promoting acceptance of individuality and difference within the classroom
- having policies and practices in school which do not discriminate or place neurodivergent students at a disadvantage.



Speak with the school teacher about successes and difficulties your child has in the classroom. Ask them about support already in place as suggested above and if your child is accessing this support.

It may be that your child is able to access a full curriculum with school support but it may be your child will need more specific and focussed support in some areas and may require an EHCP.

Support Pathways

- [If you think your child needs additional help | Greenwich Community Directory](#)
- [Parent Carer Needs Assessments | Greenwich Community Directory](#)
- [Organisations that support parents and carers | Greenwich Community Directory](#)