

# **Signposting Autism**

**Autism affects how the person communicates with  
and relates to others**

**Bristol Autism Team, BAT**

## Bristol Autism Team (BAT) support in education settings

The Bristol Autism Team (BAT) supports children and young people from the age of 4 to 18 who:

- have a formal diagnosis of autism
- are on the pathway to an autism diagnosis
- have social, communication and interaction needs

We support these children and young people through:

- primary school
- secondary school
- post 16 education settings

We also support children under the age of 4 with a formal autism diagnosis through early years settings such as nurseries and pre-school.

The BAT offers mainstream education settings:

- a named BAT link from early years through to post 16 (sixth form and college)
- annual cohort meetings with their named BAT link to plan autism support for their setting (a cohort meeting is where the school talks to their BAT link worker about specific children who have social, communication and interaction needs, including autism)
- annual advice clinics
- advice for parents and carers through our online referral system, which parents and carers can access by emailing [bristol.autism.hotline@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:bristol.autism.hotline@bristol.gov.uk), or through the BAT link for your education setting

# Family Learning courses and seminars for parents and carers

What Family Learning courses we offer and how to add a child to the waiting list for one.

## About the courses

The [Bristol Autism Team](#) runs a range of courses throughout the year. The courses are:

- free
- for parents and carers
- face to face and online

All courses are for parents and carers of children who are:

- autistic, or
- waiting for an autism assessment, or
- neurodiverse with social communication and interaction needs

If you're not sure if a course is suitable for your child, email [autismfamilycourses@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:autismfamilycourses@bristol.gov.uk)

## Bristol Autism Team Advanced Project Workers

The BAT's Advanced Project Workers offer family support to supplement our [family learning courses](#).

They also offer advice and support to services working with families with an autistic child, or a child with social, communication and interaction needs.

Referrals can be made by a:

- social worker
- mental health professional
- member of the Bristol Autism Team (BAT)
- member of the Families in Focus team or a Children's Centre

If you'd like to make a referral for support from the BAT Advanced Project Workers, email [autismfamilycourses@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:autismfamilycourses@bristol.gov.uk) to request a referral form.

The BAT reviews referrals. If they agree to allocate an Advanced Project Worker to work with the family, the Disabled Children's Service (DCS) Children's Resource Panel for Specialist Services (CRPSS) confirm this at their monthly meeting.

The Advanced Project Worker will do:

- an assessment that takes into account the view of the child or young person and their family
- a short-term intervention based on a plan agreed with the child or young person and their family



Q Search



## Bristol Autism Team Pathways to Short Breaks Project

This project supports children and young people aged from 8 to 18 with social, communication and interaction needs, who are experiencing anxiety and are socially isolated. The project is funded until the end of March 2024.

The project offers access to targeted and innovative community based groups, offered by our partners, Neon Daisy, Exar and FACE.

- Neon Daisy run the [Freedom Club](#), a neuro-affirmative space in the woods for young people with autistic mentors.
- Exar run the [Without Walls Project](#), which supports self-isolating young people to reconnect, socialise and access education using virtual reality.
- [FACE](#) run youth groups across Bristol. Numbers are lower than typical youth groups and the content is based around the young person's interests. We commission FACE to run the Bristol Autism Project.

Advanced Project Workers provide support to children and young people who would be otherwise unable to access the community groups. This support involves working with the child or young person and their family, in their homes and local communities.

The goal of the project is to increase the child or young person's social connection and education opportunities.

# National Autistic Society, NAS

<https://www.autism.org.uk/>

## National Autistic Society (NAS)

The UK's largest autism support charity with lots of advice and guidance. Visit [National Autistic Society](#) or call 0808 800 4104.

They have a Bristol branch which supports their members, most of whom are parents of autistic people. They provide:

- parent-led exclusive access play opportunities for families
- guest speakers on topics related to autism
- book and resources that parents may borrow

For more information on the Bristol branch visit [NAS Bristol Branch](#).



# Bristol Autism Support, BAS

<https://www.bristolautismsupport.org/>

**St Bons Autism padlet on school website**

# Do you have any resources to share?

Incredible Kids <https://incrediblekids.org.uk/>

Gympanzees <https://www.gympanzees.org/>

The PDA society <https://www.pdasociety.org.uk/>