



## **Billingshurst Primary School Autism Awareness**

The National Autistic Society describes autism as....

*....a lifelong developmental disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world. One in 100 people are on the autism spectrum and there are around 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK...Autism is a spectrum condition and affects people in different ways. Like all people, autistic people have their own strengths and weaknesses...*

At BPS we recognise that children with autism experience the world from a different perspective. We recognise that they have strengths to share as well as areas in which they need support.

Some children are diagnosed as having autism and others may be identified as having social communication difficulties or differences.

We understand that autism can affect a child's communication and social interaction, and how they process sensory information. We understand that children may have particular interests and need support with emotional understanding and regulation.

At BPS we work to identify the individual child's needs and use a range of strategies, recommended by the West Sussex Autism and Social Communication Team, to support their educational, social and emotional development.

Parents are welcome to contact their child's class teacher, in the first instance, or the SENDCo, for further information.

Where to find additional information and support:

The West Sussex Local Offer <https://westsussex.local-offer.org/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&query=autism&commit=Search>

The National Autistic Society <https://www.autism.org.uk/>

The West Sussex SENDIAS (SEND Information, Advice and Support) service provides information, advice and support to children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and to their parents or carers <https://westsussexsendias.org.uk>

Reaching Families offers information and support to parents and families of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities <https://www.reachingfamilies.org.uk>

Aspens (formerly Autism Sussex) offer support and advice to parents and families of children with autism <https://aspens.org.uk>



