



Autism Support Team and Cherry Garden Outreach Information Sheet for Parents/Carers

In Southwark, primary schools work closely with the Southwark Autism Support Team and the Cherry Garden Outreach to provide comprehensive support to children with autism and additional needs. These services are designed to offer a range of support that can be tailored to each child's unique needs, from universal support for all children to targeted and specialized interventions for those children with complex needs requiring more focused assistance.

Southwark Autism Support Team (SAST)

The Southwark Autism Support Team work with school staff, parents, and external agencies.

Universal Support	Targeted Support	Specialist
<p>Training and Advice: The SAST offers general training for all school staff online and in person, helping them better understand autism and how to create an inclusive learning environment for children with autism. They also offer a specific offer for reception classes in Southwark.</p> <p>Consultation: They provide advice on best practices, strategies for promoting social communication, and how to implement simple adjustments in classrooms to support all children, including those with autism.</p> <p>Awareness: The team helps raise awareness by providing tips and recommendations via their newsletter.</p>	<p>Individual Assessments: For children identified as needing additional support, the SAST offers more focused strategies that can be implemented in the classroom. This might involve observing the child in class and advising teachers on specific strategies to address behavioural challenges or communication needs.</p> <p>Parental Support: The team works with parents/carers to understand the child's needs both at school and at home. They may offer guidance on how parents can support their child's development, communication, and social skills. The team also run a number of workshops throughout the year for parents/carers.</p>	<p>Direct Interventions/Coaching Staff: For children with significant needs, the SAST can provide tailored interventions. Before a referral is accepted, An ABC chart must be kept by staff, and adaptations need to have been tried and shown to have had limited impact in the classroom.</p> <p>Creating Individualised Learning Plans (ILPs): They help create and implement ILPs (Individualised Learning Plans) for children with autism, ensuring that the child's education is tailored to their specific needs.</p>

For more information see here: <https://localoffer.southwark.gov.uk/education/specialist-services-offered-by-the-council/autism-support-team>



Cherry Garden Outreach Support

The Cherry Garden Outreach team provides a range of services to support children with complex learning needs, including those with autism. They focus on helping primary schools in Southwark create an inclusive environment for children with additional learning needs, providing tailored interventions at different levels of support.

Universal Support	Targeted Support	Specialist
<p>Whole-School Training: Cherry Garden Outreach provides training for all school staff, including teaching assistants, class teachers, and senior leadership. This training covers topics such as autism awareness, supporting children with sensory needs, and strategies for promoting inclusion and participation.</p> <p>Guidance on Inclusive Practices: The team offers advice on adapting teaching strategies to ensure that children with autism and other special needs can access the curriculum. They may suggest modifications to classroom layout, teaching approaches, or resources.</p>	<p>Direct Work with Children: Outreach workers from Cherry Garden may spend time working directly with children in school. They may observe the child's interactions, offer direct support, and give teachers and staff specific strategies for addressing individual challenges.</p> <p>Parental Involvement: Like the Southwark Autism Support Team, Cherry Garden Outreach works closely with parents to ensure there is a shared understanding of the child's needs, and they may offer advice on supporting their child's learning and development at home.</p>	<p>Intensive Support for Children with Complex Needs: Cherry Garden Outreach staff work closely with the school staff to provide targeted interventions tailored to the child's individual needs.</p>

N.B Only two children in each school can access support via Cherry Garden Outreach at the same time.

For more information see here: <https://www.cherrygardenschool.co.uk/supporting-parents-and-professionals/>