

Autism Provision

There are a number of students at Lakeside who have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). There are also other students who display autistic traits but do not have an official medical diagnosis. Students with autism are not taught in a separate unit, but work with their peers in a classroom situation.

Lakeside has a specialist Autism Team who support staff and students within the classroom. The team comprises:

- Lynnette Johnson - Autism Manager.
- Karen Wake - Autism Support Assistant

People with autism experience problems in four main areas:

1. Social interaction/understanding

They may have difficulty:

- Initiating and maintaining social interactions
- In the use of eye contact e.g. non or too long
- Understanding social expectations and rules e.g. turn-taking, personal space

2. Communication

They may:

- Interpret language literally e.g. "take the register"
- Have problems understanding both verbal and non verbal forms of communication
- Only communicate their own needs

3. Thought and imagination

They may:

- Demonstrate inflexibility in behaviour/language/thought etc
- Have restricted and repetitive range of activities
- Indulge in obsessive play
- Have seemingly bizarre repetitive rituals

4. Sensory

They may:

- Be over sensitive or under sensitive in the seven sensory areas
- These sensitivities may not be consistent on a daily or even hourly basis
- They may have problems regulating on their own sensory levels