YEOVIL AREA COMMUNITY ACADEMY TRUST

ADHD and Autism Information for Parents and Carers

We understand that when parents raise concerns about ADHD or Autism, it is because they are worried about their child and want the right support in place. These concerns are taken seriously, and we want to work in partnership with you.

Before a referral for an ADHD or Autism assessment can be made, we need time to build a clear picture of your child's strengths and needs. Some difficulties can look similar to ADHD or Autism, such as sensory needs, attention or memory difficulties, emotional regulation, hearing or vision needs, or past experiences. Exploring these helps make sure nothing is missed and that your child gets the most appropriate support.



More information about the pre-assessment pathway can be found by clicking on the image below:

SEND Somerset's Local Offer

Supporting neurodivergence at the earliest opportunity

In Somerset, families usually complete a pre-assessment pathway before a referral is requested. This involves trying strategies, gathering information and reviewing progress over time. This process normally takes at least two school terms. We know waiting can be difficult, but this information helps ensure any referral is as helpful and accurate as possible.

As part of this process, families are encouraged to work with a Parent Family Support Advisor (PFSA). PFSAs offer practical, supportive advice for families at home and can help with everyday strategies. This support is there to help, not to judge. PFSAs may also run a 6 -week Tuning Into Kids Programme, which focuses on emotion coaching and practical strategies. Please note there may be a waiting list.

Families can also access free Wise-Up Workshops run by Somerset's Parent and Carer Forum. These are delivered by parents with lived experience of neurodiversity and are available online and in person throughout the year. More information about the Wise-Up Workshops can be found here:

WISE Up Workshops

https://somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk/home/wise-up-workshops/

If you would like to access PFSA support, or if you would like to talk through any part of this process, please contact the SENCO via the school office or speak to your child's class teacher.