



# **How we can help**

# **What is autism?**

**Autism is a disability that lasts your whole life.**

**People with autism find it hard to make sense of the world. To them it is just a mess of people, places and events.**

**They find it hard to understand other people. Taking part in family life and making friends can be hard for people with autism.**

**Going to school is one of the biggest challenges for people with autism.**

# **How many people have autism?**

**1 out of every 100 people (including children and young people) have autism.**

# **Why do we need the Autism Education Trust?**

**More children with autism are asked to leave school than others.**

**Many of them are asked to leave from more than one school.**

**Children with autism get bullied in school more often than others.**

**They get mental health problems more often than other children.**

**The government gives a lot of money every year for schools to support children with autism.**

**But the people who decide how this money is spent need to have good information and advice about autism.**

**That is what we do best.**

## **What is the Autism Education Trust?**

**We started in 2007 with support from the government's Department for Children, Schools and Families.**

**We support teaching people with autism in England.**

# **What does the Autism Education Trust plan to do?**

**We plan to:**

- **tell as many people as possible that children with autism need teaching that is made to suit their needs**
- **bring together organisations that think the same as us to share ideas**
- **involve people with autism and their families in getting out information and support to make teaching people with autism better**

**We will do this by:**

- **getting up to date information about what is going on around autism and schools**
- **sharing ideas to support school children with autism**
- **being the link between people with autism and their families, professionals, government and people who make decisions about teaching people with autism**

**What are we doing now?**

**We looked at how people with autism are being taught in schools all over England.**

**You can see what we found out on our website:**

**[www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk](http://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk)**

**The work helped us to:**

- **set up a website to give information for parents, professionals and young people with autism**
- **set up groups that give people with autism a say in what we do**
- **set up a Youth Council for children and young people with autism to get involved in what we do**
- **do more work to find out what children with autism need in school**
- **find better ways for parents and young people with autism to get support**

# **To find out more**

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