



Mrs Henderson  
Deputy Head / SENDCO

## St John's C of E Academy SEND and Wellbeing Newsletter



Hello and welcome to our second SEND and Wellbeing Newsletter from St John's! This is the second in a half-termly instalment of information and updates on SEND and Wellbeing at St John's and in the local community. I hope you find them useful and informative! If you have any feedback, please contact me: [sara.henderson@stjohns.covmat.org](mailto:sara.henderson@stjohns.covmat.org)

We believe that every child at our academy is unique and special, so we aim to provide an inclusive and values driven curriculum, which has been designed specifically for our St John's children and families. We fully believe in equipping our children to **live life in all its fullness**. (John 10:10).



### Provision Reviews

Learning Journeys are reviewed termly with your child, parents / carers and the class teacher. The SENDCO will liaise closely with the class teacher and may sit in on some review meetings. These meetings will take place towards the end of the Summer term, look out for a letter containing your meeting date and time.

### Referrals

If your child has been referred to any of the NHS or outside services, please be patient. Waiting times have crept up and this is beyond our control. As a school though, we will continue all provision in place in school and seek to refine this to support your child in the best way we can.

### Parent + Carer SEND / Wellbeing catch-up

An information session with coffee and cake is being planned. Dates will be in the newsletter.

### Transition to new year groups

Transition for children into their new year group, key stage or school is extremely important. Our transition package will be starting after half term. Like last year, we will be doing a range of activities across the last few weeks to enable your child to get to know their new teacher, and their teacher to get to know them! We will do values-based activities, stories and complete our Discovery Day for the autumn term topic. You will have the opportunity to come and meet your child's new teacher after school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

If you feel your child would benefit from additional transition arrangements, please contact Mrs Henderson

Termly



Autism (ASD) is not an illness or a disease, it just means that your brain may work differently to others. According to the NHS website, people with Autism may find it more difficult to concentrate and interact with other people, find it hard to understand how other people think or feel, find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful and social events, take longer to understand information or do or think the same things over and over. Every child and adult with autism is different and their needs and difficulties vary widely.

In school, if parents and the SENDCO (Mrs Henderson) feel that your child may be on the Autistic spectrum or have difficulties in areas linked to ASD, then a referral to the school's Complex Communication Team specialist teacher or the school's Educational Psychologist may be made. These professionals will help guide further support for your child both in school and offer advice for at home. Following these assessments and support a referral to the neurodevelopmental team may be made requesting an assessment for ASD. The waiting list is very long, however, the support for your child will continue in school and for you as a family.

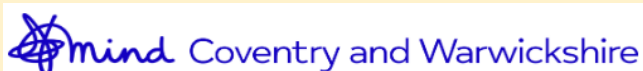


### Dimensions Tool

The Dimensions tool can be really helpful both for supporting parents and for use in school. It is a series of questions, with graded answers, whereby you choose the 'best fit' answer for your child. At the end you have a report with lots of links to websites, apps, support services, groups and so on. As a school, we will regularly complete this with parents as part of referrals and to provide support whilst a child is waiting to be seen by a service. If you would like to complete this in school with me for your child, please get in touch. If you complete this at home, make sure you save the pdf report it creates, this is where all the links are.

Here is the website link:

<https://dimensions.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/Begin.aspx>



<https://cwmind.org.uk/autism-support-service/>



<https://www.autism.org.uk/>

If you have any questions or are worried about your child, please contact Mrs Henderson, SENDCO, who will be able to chat through next steps and help seek further advice from outside agencies where appropriate.