

**Autism Aware Award**

2018-2019

The **Autism Aware Award** is run and assessed by a multi disciplinary team within Brighton & Hove. This includes: ASC specialist teachers from special and mainstream education; Educational Psychologists; Specialist Speech and Language Therapists; representatives from the autism community.

* NB School may choose to complete only one or two of steps above. All three steps must be completed to gain the AAA.
* Schools who completed the AAA award prior to 2019 will complete an audit at their AAA three year anniversary as above. They will be asked to then identify an Autism Champion and an Autism Practitioner, and attend the AAA forums as part of their ongoing action plan.

Step One:

* One (primary) or two (large primary/secondary) support staff (e.g. INAs, TAs, Learning Mentors) are identified as **Autism Practitioners**.
* To qualify as an Autism Practitioner, they must have attended AT LEAST FOUR autism focused training sessions, including an overview of autism.
* Sessions might include: Just Right, Social Stories, Lego Therapy, Challenging Behaviour in autism, Social Skills, Comic Strip Conversations, Anxiety.

The AAA is valid for three years. In order to stay accredited, schools must:

* Send their Autism Champion and Autism Practitioner to 80% of the twice yearly AAA forums. At each forum, there will be a specific ASC focus, updating staff, and sharing good practice.
* If the Autism Champion or the Autism Practitioner leave, the school must ensure these positions are filled as soon as possible, including the training as specified above.
* Around the three year anniversary of the AAA, a member of the AAA team will visit the school and complete an audit update with the school. This visit will be discussed with the AAA team and a decision will be made as to whether the school can keep the AAA for another three years, or whether further work is needed. If further work is needed, an action plan will be agreed with the school, to be reviewed by the AAA team after six months.

Step Three:

Once school has both an Autism Practitioner(s) and an Autism Champion, they can apply for the Autism Aware Award. Success in gaining this award is assessed by one of the AAA team via:

* Initial meeting with Autism Champion, Autism Practitioner, SENCo and Headteacher
* Completion of AAA audit. Support will be given by the AAA team for this and will include gathering evidence from paperwork, learning walks, observations, discussions with staff, students and parents.

Step Two:

School identifies an **Autism Champion** (e.g. teacher, SENCo) who will:

* Have attended some autism training as above
* Commits to attending the six week AAA course and completing six associated tasks in their school.
* NB This can run in tandem with the Autism Practitioner element