

April 2025

Autism Acceptance Month

Celebrate the Spectrum!

World Autism Acceptance **Week**: 2nd to 8Th April 2025 World Autism Acceptance **Day**: Wednesday 2nd April 2025

How will your school promote autism acceptance this year?

Join in to celebrate the inclusion of autistic individuals in your school community.

Why 'Autism Acceptance' and not 'Autism Awareness'?

Raising awareness is just the first step towards a truly inclusive environment. "Autism Awareness is knowing autistic people exist. Autistic Acceptance is about embracing them as they are, with strengths and weaknesses." (Lyric Holmans, NeuroDivergent Rebel blog). The goal of Autism Acceptance Month is to be more inclusive of the community it seeks to celebrate. It promotes not just education about the differences of autistic people, but understanding and respecting them.

What could your school do to celebrate?

- Post and share **autism acceptance** messages using the hashtags #CelebrateDifferences, #AutismAcceptanceMonth on social media and in your email signatures.
- Share **autism information** with your wider school community in newsletters, emails, and other partner communications.
- Encourage your pupils to express themselves through colour, e.g. wearing colourful clothes for a day, taking part in a 'Spectrum Colour Walk' for charity, or art work (e.g. <u>Autism</u> <u>Awareness Coloring Page | crayola.com</u>)
- Celebrate autism acceptance at meetings, workshops, assemblies or other events for staff, pupils and parents.



How can you 'Level Up'?

Maybe your school is undergoing some changes and you're learning about **acceptance** and true inclusion. Perhaps you're on a personal journey and would like to know how you can show more **empowerment** or **advocacy** of the Autistic people in your life. 'Autism Level Up' have free resources and advice around moving from 'Acceptance' to 'Advocacy'. Have a look at their 'Levelling Up' guide here: <u>Level Up LUNA Style</u>. You can find further resources to support your child on their website here: <u>Autism Level UP!</u>

Where can you find information to share?

National Autistic Society: World Autism Acceptance Month 2025

Autism Education Trust: World Autism Acceptance Month 2025 | Autism Education Trust

TwinkI: Autism Acceptance Week | Information and resources

Neurodivergent Narwhals – Ed Wiley Autism <u>Acceptance</u> Lending Library (neurodiversitylibrary.org)

Ambitious About Autism: World Autism Acceptance Month toolkit | Ambitious about Autism Involve your autistic students/staff in planning and delivery – what would they like other people to know? What changes would make life better for them?

Are there any videos to show in assembly/tutor groups?

Younger students:

Autism Awareness - It's okay to be different (youtube.com)

Amazing Things Happen! - YouTube

Sesame Street: Thomas's Story

Arthur - When Carl met George

BBC My Autism and Me

What's up with Nick?

Can you make it to the end? (youtube.com)

TedB Talk 'What it means to be autistic' or 'understanding autism' (youtube.com)

Older students:

Young people explain autism | Ambitious about Autism - YouTube

Five Questions about Autism - YouTube

Autism TMI Virtual Reality Experience

Carly's Cafe - Experience Autism Through Carly's Eyes

Autistic Student Brings Happiness to Everyone | Yearbook - YouTube -

Libby's conference speech at Sheffield Autism Dialogue Conference December 2018 - YouTube

How autism freed me to be myself | Rosie King - YouTube

Another celebration date for your diary...

Autistic Pride Day Wednesday 18th June 2025

Autistic Pride is when autistic individuals feel secure and confident, taking pride in their authentic, neurodivergent selves. This celebration day recognises the importance of pride for autistic people and its role in bringing about positive changes in society.



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