

What is autism?

Autism is a lifelong disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world. There are approximately **140,000** autistic school children in the UK.¹

Communication challenges

Needing time to process information

Difficulty with unexpected change

Even small changes can cause huge anxiety

This can lead to meltdowns or shutdowns

Sensory differences

Noise, smells and lights can be very overwhelming

Repeating things and routines

Taking the exact same route to school or liking the same food

World Autism Awareness Week 2021
29 March - 4 April

"If you see anyone having a meltdown, be calm and understanding and give them the space to calm down."

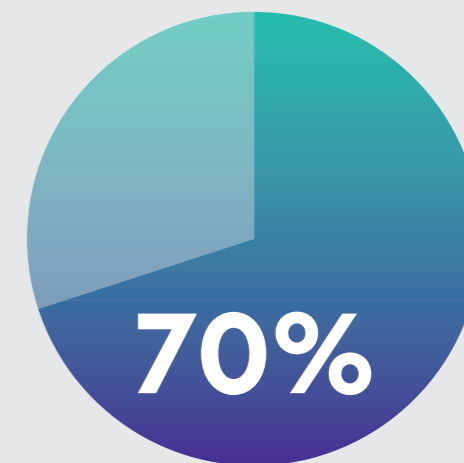
Talia Grant

Help create a society that works for autistic people.

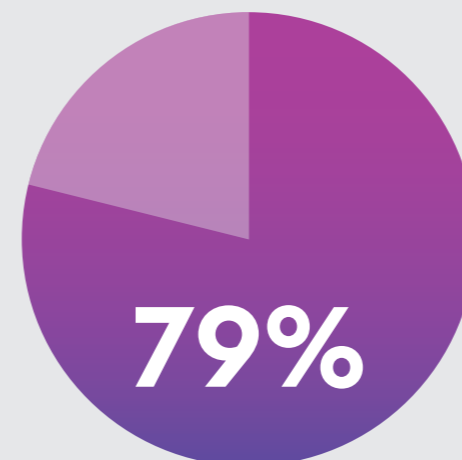


1 in 100

children are estimated to be autistic.²



of autistic children are in schools like yours.³



of autistic people report feeling isolated.⁴

Autistic children are **3 times** more likely to be excluded from schools like yours.⁵



Well-known autistic people



Chris Packham



Anne Hegerty



Talia Grant

Sources

1. The NHS Information Centre, Community and Mental Health Team, Brugha, T. et al (2012). **Estimating the prevalence of autism spectrum conditions in adults: extending the 2007 Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey.** Leeds: NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care
2. The NHS Information Centre, Community and Mental Health Team, Brugha, T. et al (2012). **Estimating the prevalence of autism spectrum conditions in adults: extending the 2007 Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey.** Leeds: NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care
3. DfE Special educational needs in England: January 2014
70% of autistic children are in mainstream school
4. The National Autistic Society Survey (2015)
5. Department for Education (July 2018), Permanent and fixed-period exclusions in England: 2016 to 2017
70% of autistic children are in mainstream school, and are 3 times more likely to be excluded from them

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