

I think my child is Neurodivergent.

Neurodivergence means having a 'neurocognitive' experience (to do with how information is processed by the brain) that 'diverges' from (is different to) what is considered typical. Neurodivergent people experience and react to the world differently to 'neurotypical' people.



At Suffield Park we want to support your child to reach their full potential. Following this structure gives a clear view on provision and expectations for support both at home and school. The timescale for working through these steps will be guided by your family circumstances and your child's needs.

We look forward to working with you through the following steps of support:

1. What is typical at this age anyway?

Watch the video about [Child Development & Additional Needs](#) on the Just One Norfolk Website and look at what would be typical development for your child: [Development In Younger Children](#)

2. Gather information about your concerns.

If you are thinking that your child may show traits of specific areas of neurodivergence, learn more about these conditions at these websites.

Just One Norfolk ND digital library has a lot of useful videos to add information: [Understanding Neurodiversity](#)

3. Keep a log: Having the information on paper about your specific child and why you are seeking this support can help with conversations with a range of professionals including school. Use the **home support log** to keep a record of concerns.

4. Attend a workshop and talk through your concerns.

At school we hold some specific Neurodiversity information sharing workshops with our partners from the Schools and Communities Team. Ask at school when the next session is and book on, this gives you opportunity to talk through concerns with professionals at school.

If you are not able to attend in person these are available online:

[Norfolk Steps](#): *Norfolk County Council Steps team have developed a series of online sessions to support families, created using tested methods and approaches already used in schools. They will help you understand the use of positive language, behaviour, consistency and positive relationships.*

[Norfolk Positive Behaviour Strategies \(PBS\)](#): *an online programme for families of children with additional needs produced by our partners in Norfolk Community Health and Care and Family Action. The course will help you think about the messages your child is trying to communicate to you and some practical skills and strategies to help you manage your child in a positive way*

Make a record of 2 actions you intend to take away from the training and monitor on the home support log.

5. **Individual meeting with school:** Raise concerns with school and book a meeting with the school SENDCO. At this meeting bring with you the home support log, your actions from workshops you've attended and an outline of your concerns from the information you've watched or read.

What happens next can depend on how your child is presenting at school. There are typically 2 outcomes:

1. Continued 'watchful waiting' gathering evidence from school. This may mean the SENDCO completing an in class or social time one-off observation, tracking behaviour/concerns over a number of days; conversations between SENDCO and class teams or completion of a screening tool depending on the needs presented at school. School will also follow their SEN Support sequence at this point.

OR

2. School have already completed these steps and advise further support.

7. Involve other professionals:

This could be through working with the Schools and Communities Team or Early Help referral which can be discussed through school, EPSS, SEND Information line or medical partners.

8. Referral for a medical diagnosis: more information available on Just One Norfolk here: [ND toolkit](#)

The process of referral can change but currently there are 2 routes. **Norfolk NHS Neurodevelopmental Service** (NDS) through school or **Right to Choose pathway** through the GP.

Medical diagnosis is unlikely to alter the provision offered at our school.

Further supportive information available on these websites:

EPSS Parent padlet [Parent Information](#)

ASD Helping Hands. A local charity: [Autism Information](#) OR [ADHD](#)

National Autistic Society [Advice and guidance](#)