



CASS- About Us

The Caerphilly Autistic Spectrum Service (CASS) is based at Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre. This team has been developed to support children and young people (CYP) with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Additionally, the service also provides support for parents, families and school staff working with children and young people (CYP) up to the age of 18 years who have received a diagnosis of Autism. Support is directed towards:

- Parents and/or Carers
- Children & Young people with a diagnosis of ASD
- Family members
- ALNCO's
- Teachers
- Learning Support staff & other professionals working with CYP

Range of CASS Support

Young people aged 2-18 and their families can be referred to CASS for the following support and services:

School Support - Support is available from CASS to empower schools to meet the needs of Autistic young people. This support may include modelling good practice, advice, preparing or loaning of resources and staff training. **CASS is not involved in the allocation of additional support hours or school placement.**

Home Support – Families can be referred into the service for a short, targeted period of support. Support can include working with young people, advice and sharing of resources or referral to other appropriate services. **CASS does not offer any type of respite care.**

Communication Support – Often working closely alongside SALT, our communication support worker can assist in the implementation of PECs and other effective strategies that promote communication such as intensive interaction both at home and at school.

Please note that some services are currently operating virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. For further information contact the CASS team to discuss.

Training

Families and Young people can be referred to CASS for the following training courses:

NAS Early Bird- 10 weeks of training for Families with a child who has received a diagnosis of ASD aged 0-3 years.

NAS Early Bird Plus - 10 weeks of training for Families with a child who has received a diagnosis of ASD aged 4-8 years. If the child is in school a member of school staff can also attend the training with parents.

Incredible Years (Autism Spectrum and Language Delays Parent program) – The incredible Years ASD programme is aimed at supporting families of children aged 3-6 who have a diagnosis of ASD with developing communication.

Cygnnet Training – A 6 week parenting programme for families with older children aged 7-18 years. The aim of the course is to increase parent understanding of ASD and guide parents through practical strategies they can use with their child.

Family Seminar Courses- One off four-hour sessions for families on the following:

- Understanding ASD
- Managing Anger
- Sensory Issues
- Sibling Support (from 2014)

Children and Young people can be referred to CASS for the following course:

Understanding Me - a group for young people with a diagnosis of ASD aimed at teaching about what Autism means to them. Usually suitable for children aged 11 & over but can be run for younger children when deemed appropriate. Please contact the team for further information of groups.

CASS will run an "Understanding Me" group in school. **ALNCo's can refer groups of young people to CASS for Understanding Me only.** Contact CASS for further information and an "Understanding Me" referral form.

ASD info wales website

www.autismwales.org

The CASS team recommends that all school/service settings complete the Autism aware certification scheme, resources and information for each age group can be found on the website. Families can also access this website for information and resources.

Training for school and other professionals

CASS can currently offer the following training packages as part of whole school/setting training or for smaller groups of professionals. Training is not only available to schools but to any setting/professionals working with CYP with a diagnosis of ASD.

In addition to the training listed below we can also devise bespoke training to meet the needs of your individual setting or staff team.

Some of the training packages available include:

- An introduction to Autism
- General Strategies
- Understanding Behaviour
- Understanding Sensory Needs
- Understanding and supporting Anxiety

CASS Referral- Who do we work with?

Residency

To receive CASS Home support the CYP must be a resident of Caerphilly County Borough Council. CASS will provide school support for CYP educated in a CCBC school but living outside the authority.

Diagnosis

All CYP accessing the service must be recognised and known to the borough to have a medical diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This includes Autism, High functioning Autism, Asperger Syndrome and Pervasive Developmental Disorders NOS (not otherwise specified). This does not include Semantic/Pragmatic Disorder.

Due to the extremely high demand for support CASS can only provide support to schools and families of a CYP with a confirmed diagnosis of ASD or Asperger Syndrome

CASS Intervention

CYP can be referred to CASS for the following reasons:

- Accessing and supporting education
- Supporting and understanding behaviour
- Supporting and understanding anxiety
- Developing social skills
- Training courses
- Transition advice and support
- Developing appropriate routines
- Implementing suitable resources and strategies.
- Sign posting and general advice

Referrals

Referrals are made on a CASS referral form and sent directly to cass@hwbcymru.net Should you require any further information please contact the CASS team at Trinity Fields School.

Email: cass@hwbcymru.net

Telephone Number: 01443 866000

How we will use your information

The Caerphilly Autism Spectrum Service (CASS) will process referrals for support/advice either through training, home support, school support or communication support. We will collate the information relevant to your request, your identity and contact details for the purposes of providing you with a response and correspondence. Involvement from CASS will involve collating/sharing information with other services areas within Caerphilly Country Borough Council and other organisations such as relevant schools/educational establishments, Health Boards, Careers Wales, Welsh Government, Special Educational Needs Tribunal Wales, SNAP Cymru and other Local Authorities. Your information will be kept for 35 years.

You have a number of rights in relation to your information including the right of access to information we hold about you and the right of complaint if you are unhappy with the way that we have handled your request or your information.

For further information on how we process your information find the full Privacy Note on the CASS Page of the Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre Website.

