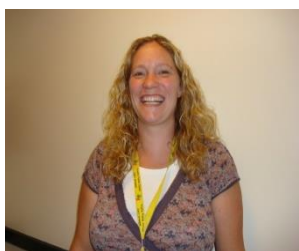


Caerphilly Autistic Spectrum Service

CASS Referral Guidance

2022-2023

The CASS team



Michelle Meredith

Assistant Head Teacher Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre – CASS

Michelle joined Trinity Fields School and the CASS team in January 2013. Previously, Michelle was the Head of the Caerphilly Specialist Resource Base for Autistic pupils aged 11-16 where she worked for 9 years. She was integral in developing the Resource Base into a highly specialist and successful placement for pupils with a diagnosis of ASD.

Michelle trained as a primary school teacher and specialised in working with Autistic children and young people. She has worked in a range of educational settings with young people aged 3-19.

Michelle is the primary point of contact for the CASS service.



Melissa Taylor- Home/School support

Melissa has worked for CASS since November 2020 as a home and school support worker. Prior to joining CASS Melissa worked at Trinity Fields school for two years as a teaching assistant. Melissa has many years of experience working within mainstream schools supporting Autistic children and led a project across primary and secondary schools working with vulnerable children. Melissa has previous experience of working with and supporting families as she previously organised a monthly playgroup for children with a range of additional learning needs.



Cerys Jenkins- School support

Cerys has worked with CASS as an outreach teaching assistant since the service started. Cerys is highly experienced in working with young people of all ages with Autism.



Alison Evans – Home Support

Alison has worked for CASS as a home/school support worker for the last 5 years. Alison previously worked with an outreach service for children with additional needs including children with Autism.

All staff can be contacted at the following address:

Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre
Caerphilly Road
Ystrad Mynach
Hengoed
CF82 7XW
01443 866000
cass@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk

Summary of Privacy Notice: 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 31 years from your child's date of birth.

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, and your rights please click the following link:

<https://trinityfieldsschoolandresourcecentre.co.uk/media/d3zgrw4j/privacy-notice-cass-2022-final.pdf>

CASS- About Us

The Caerphilly Autistic Spectrum Service (CASS) is part of the Resource Centre at Trinity Fields School. This team has been developed to support Autistic children, young people (CYP) and their families. The service provides support for staff and other professionals working with Autistic children and young people (CYP) up to the age of 18 years.

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

The service is tailored to facilitate a multi-agency approach in addressing the individual needs of the CYP. CASS liaise with other agencies & professionals including:

- Educational Psychologists
- Social Services
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team (CAMHs)
- Primary Mental Health Care team
- Pediatricians and all other Neurodevelopmental services.
- Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)
- The National Autistic Society (NAS)
- Voluntary agencies
- Occupational Therapists
- Any other agencies where appropriate

Range of CASS Support

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

CASS Support

CYP can be referred to CASS for the following reasons:

- Accessing education
- Supporting communication needs
- Advice around understanding and supporting behaviour's that challenge
- Advise around understanding and supporting anxiety (mild/moderate)
- Developing social skills
- Advice around toileting and sleep (when the issues are directly linked to the CYP's diagnosis of ASD)
- Transition support (see transition to see if CYP meets criteria)
- Developing appropriate routines and implementation of supporting resources (such a developing visual structure)
- Delivery of appropriate training

CASS does not provide support for the following:

- **Emergency intervention either for the young person or the family**
- **Referrals for young people highlighting significant concerns around suicidal thoughts and/or self-harm or depression.**
- **Respite care**
- **Decisions around school placement and/or the allocation of additional support hours**

School Support - The young people must have a diagnosis of ASD to be eligible for school support. Support is available from CASS to empower schools in meeting the needs of Autistic young people. This support may include modelling good practice, advice around understanding needs, preparing or loaning of resources and staff training.

Home Support - The young people must have a diagnosis of ASD to be eligible for home support. Additionally, difficulties at home must be impacting on education or the young person's ability to access education to meet criteria for support. Support can include working with young people, advice, signposting and sharing of resources or referral to other appropriate services. **CASS does not offer any type of respite care.**

What CASS support can look like?

CASS support can involve some of the following, but is largely determined around the needs of the individual CYP, school or family.

- Face to face or virtual discussions on a regular basis (regularity dependent upon the need)
- Observations of the CYP in various settings
- Advice for parents and/or professionals.
- Target setting with regular reviews and updating of the targets
- Modelling strategies or approaches and positive interactions/engagement.
- Support with development of resources for the CYP/ staff/ the home and school environment
- Telephone and email support for staff and families
- Liaison with a range of professionals. A multi-agency approach.
- INSET training for school staff
- Sign posting or the loaning of relevant literature or other resources.
- Attending annual reviews and multi-agency meetings where appropriate.

Transition

CASS is unable to arrange bespoke transition for every child transitioning from one educational environment to another but will provide the following support for schools and CYP.

- Transition advice for school staff if required/requested.
- Access to the CASS Transition Google Classroom resource for pupils transitioning from primary to secondary school.

If the school determines that CASS should be involved in the transition planning for an individual then a referral should be made into CASS following the timeline below to ensure involvement.

Children transitioning from primary to secondary school

- Transition needs are highlighted to the Educational Psychologist either during or as a result of the year 5 annual reviews or school planning meetings

- Referral made to CASS no later than October half term of Year 6.

Children transitioning in Early Years, College or any other setting

- Referral made as soon as possible or once placement is decided

Although CASS endeavors to support every young person referred to us we cannot commit to supporting transition planning when the referral has been received late in the process. However, general advice is always available.

Training for parents/carers

The CASS team has reintroduced some in person training courses from September 2022. Some courses will continue to run virtually based on the needs of some families, venue availability and capacity. The aim is to increase the amount of courses running in person throughout the academic year.

Families 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.

Barnardo's Cygnet 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.

NAS Teenlife – Teen Life is an NAS six-session programme for parents/carers of autistic young people aged 10 to 16 years. The aim of the Teen Life programme is to bring parents together to share information, experiences and ideas in a structured way.

Understanding Me - This workshop has been developed by the CASS team to help young people understand their diagnosis. The young person must be aware of their diagnosis and want to attend these sessions. It can be delivered in groups within the young person's secondary setting or individually as appropriate. Further information can be provided upon request.

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 who are looking to develop their knowledge and skills. Training can be delivered in person or virtually as requested.

In addition to the training listed below we can also devise bespoke training to meet the needs of your individual setting or staff. Some of the training packages available include:

- An introduction to Autism
- Strategies and developing visual structure
- Understanding and supporting behaviours that challenge.
- Understanding Sensory difference
- Understanding and supporting Anxiety

These courses can be combined in any way.

Course Prices have been kept to a minimum and are in place to cover costs.

Training Costs for Professionals

Whole Day Training (over 15 staff) - **£150.00**

Whole Day Training (under 15 staff) - **£120.00**

Half Day Training (over 15 staff) - **£100.00**

Half Day Training (under 15 staff) - **£80.00**

Twilight session 1 Hour - **£75.00**

Twilight session 2 Hours (can be booked over more than one date) - **£120.00**

For further details or to book training please contact:

The CASS team at cass@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk

CASS Referral- Who do we work with?

Residency

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

Diagnosis

All CYP accessing the service are recognised and known to the borough to have a medical diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

CASS can only provide support to families who have a CYP with a confirmed diagnosis of ASD

Referrals

CASS referrals are to be made on a **CASS referral form** and can be submitted via email to cass@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk

Alternatively referrals can be posted to CASS at Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, Ystrad Mynach, Caerphilly CF82 7XW

Children and young people should also be consulted and involved in a CASS referral wherever possible.

When a referral is being made for CASS for School Support please ensure that it is part of a graduated response and that this response is evidenced on the referral form. Where schools have not evidenced a graduated response referrals will be returned for further information before School Support can commence.

Please be specific about the type of support is required (you can ask for more than one), and be clear about the desired outcomes.

CASS will confirm receipt of referral within one month of the referral being made. Parents will also be informed and asked to sign consent to allow CASS to work with the CYP and share information with appropriate agencies.

Parents or carers will be informed of progress and current targets via initial paperwork/exit forms, discussions by phone or e-mail and/or home visits (including virtual). Parents also have the option to contact the service at any point.

Children and young people should also be consulted and involved in a CASS referral wherever possible.

Discharge Criteria

- The CYP has achieved the initial targets set.
- The planned piece of intervention or advice has been delivered. The CYP can be referred again to CASS in the future if necessary.
- The CYP needs to be referred to another service.
- The school or parents feel support is no longer required and request to be discharged from the CASS service.
- The CYP, family or school refuses to engage with the service.
- The CYP is no longer a resident in Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- The CYP does not meet CASS criteria for intervention.
- The CYP turns 18 years of age.

When the young person is discharged from the service a copy Exit form will be sent to the:

- Referrer
- Parents
- School (for school & communication support)
- Any other relevant professional

Working Arrangements

- 1) CASS will process the referral and place the CYP in the appropriate support category (based on the support requested on the referral form). Families will be invited to attend training where requested or identified by the CASS team.
- 2) Upon receipt of the completed referral form, the team will respond and confirm it is an appropriate referral with the referring professional.

Once there is available capacity a member of the CASS team will arrange an initial assessment with the parent/carer and/or education setting.

- CASS will set targets for the CYP.
- CASS will outline planned intervention.
- CASS will share the targets and planned intervention with the school, parents/carers and CYP (where appropriate).
- CASS intervention will take place over a specified time period and reviewed at the end of this period. Intervention can be extended and targets amended where deemed appropriate.
- Once CASS intervention is complete, targets will be reviewed and the CYP will be exited from the service.
- CASS will support the school or parent in making a referral to another service when appropriate.

The CYP will need to be re-referred to CASS to receive a further period of support and involvement.

Guidance Review

This guidance will be reviewed annually. It may also be necessary to review and amend it sooner to reflect both local and national updates.