



## WJPS Parents' SEND Update December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope your children have settled back into school well so far and enjoyed the 2 week break. It has been lovely catching up with many of the children around school and on the yard, hearing what they got up to.

This half term is a busy one in terms of SEND Support Plan reviews and we are grateful to all of those parents and carers that have signed up or attended these already. As you will have seen from the support plans that went home before Christmas, the format has changed slightly, which should hopefully mean targets are even more personalised, detailed and achievable.

### PINS and Parent Carer Forum Coffee Mornings

As we mentioned in the first of our SEND newsletters, we as a school have joined a national programme called PINS (Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools). This has given us as a school, a bespoke and intensive training programme for our staff in order to develop and upskill our staff.

However, one of the main elements of the project involves schools working in partnership with parents, the local authority and outside agencies in order to support the education and health needs of neurodivergent children in schools.

Based on feedback from the successful Autism in Schools programme, PINS is designed to develop approaches that enable earlier support for neurodivergent children in school that will help prevent distress and challenge which may require further intensive intervention across health, education and care.

PINS has been developed around the key principles of the Autism in Schools project:

- \* Whole school approach
- \* Good quality training for staff
- \* Parents supporting parents groups
- \* Understanding students experience of schools

As part of this project, we are holding a number coffee mornings for our parents alongside the Newcastle Parent Carer Forum. Initially we are only opening it up to our parents and carers of SEND children. I have attached an information leaflet about the Newcastle Parent Carer Forum with a bit of information about who they are.

The first coffee morning will be on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 9am** and will be led by the Parent Carer Forum It will be an opportunity for you to come and share what you would like in terms of support and advice. They will then use this information to plan the next coffee morning, where they will invite other specific agencies or services that have been identified from this session. A small number of examples of this could be a CYPS peer support worker to answer questions and offer advice, leisure services that can offer various opportunities or services that can help parents that have children with toileting issues.

There will be no members of staff, apart from our Family Support worker, Emma Clark, so that you are able to talk freely.

We would appreciate as many families attending these coffee mornings as possible so that we are able to improve as a school and offer you as West Jesmond parents and carers the support you want and need that is tailored specifically to you.

As mentioned, we are initially opening it up to parents and carers of children with SEND, but we will then open it up to the whole school. In order to gauge interest, we would appreciate you answering yes or no to whether or not you are able to attend using the Survey Monkey link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QDGQZHM>

### **Inclusive Activities and Events**

<https://tynesidecinema.co.uk/access-cinema/relaxed-screenings/>

<https://www.life.org.uk/whats-on/relaxed-sunday-sessions/>

Eldon Square have been awarded the Autism Acceptance Gold Award by the North East Autism Society (NEAS) charity and can offer various things including the hire of sensory bags for a £20 returnable deposit and Quiet Hours sessions. There are some links below for you to find out more about the award and what is on offer. I have also attached a helpful autism friendly visual guide for visiting the centre which they have produced.

<https://eldonsquare.co.uk/autism-acceptance-award/>

<https://eldonsquare.co.uk/centre-information/accessibility/>



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## Useful websites for parents and carers of children with SEND



Newcastle Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service

# SENDIASS

0191 2116255

<https://www.newcastlesendiass.co.uk/>



[Listen and translate](#)

[Register](#) [Log in](#)

## Newcastle Support Directory

Search this site



Activities(615)

Childcare(256)

Education(139)

Information, Advice and Guidance(337)

Support Directory(470)

<https://www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk/?localofferchanne=>



**NEWCASTLE**  
LOCAL OFFER



## NEWCASTLE PARENT CARER FORUM



Click on the links below to find out more about recent news and local events for children, young people and families with SEN.

<https://www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk/node/4049>

<https://www.newcastlepcf.co.uk/>

