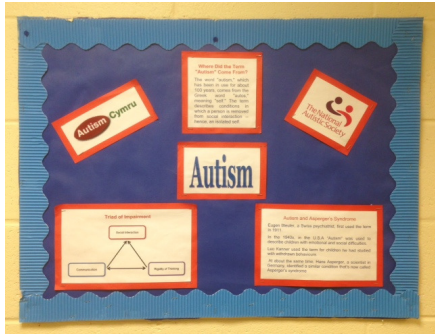


## RCCS FAQs: Autism



### **What is “Autism” exactly?**

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability. It is part of the autism spectrum and is often referred to as an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC).

### **Why “spectrum”?**

The word ‘spectrum’ is used because, whilst most people with ASC share three main areas of difficulty, their condition will affect them in very different ways.

### **What are these three main areas?**

The three main areas of difficulty are usually described as:

- Difficulty with social communication
- Difficulty with social interaction
- Difficulty with social imagination

### **Social communication and interaction difficulties....?**

People with ASC have difficulties with both verbal and non-verbal language. Many have a very literal understanding of language, and think people always mean exactly what they say. They may also not interpret body languages in a conventional way. This can lead to misunderstandings and social interactions- just making and being with friends- can be difficult.

### **And what do you mean by difficulties with social imagination?**

Most of us probably take for granted our skills in working out other people’s thoughts, feelings and knowledge. People with autism may find this a lot harder.

### **Are there different types of Autism?**

Yes, as is the case with all learning difficulties. There are different degrees of difficulty experienced by learners, and different requirements for support

### **How does RCCS support pupils with ASC?**

RCCS is a Community Comprehensive School with a fully integrated Specialist Resource Base (SRB), which allows a small number of pupils with ASC to receive appropriate expert support and help, as well as the opportunity to access mainstream education with knowledgeable and well-qualified subject teachers.

*See our FAQ on The SRB for more information.*

