

King's Ford Academy SEND & Inclusion Newsletter



New Projects 2025.2026

- This year we will be working to finish our Communication Friendly Setting award.
- We are still part of the PINS project.
- We are part of the STAY project—a project which supports autistic pupils transition into secondary school.
- Our new Autism Support Centre (ASC) opens in January 2026. It will be called the Lighthouse.

Welcome to our SEND and Inclusion newsletter!

Date: December 2025

Issue: No 11



The aim of the SEND and Inclusion Newsletter is to inform parents and staff about areas of SEND and to make SEND and inclusion a key priority in our school. If you have any questions regarding things posted in the Newsletter please speak to me.

Louise Harris—SENDCO

Multi Schools Council

The Multi Schools Council was started in 2012 to help break down perceptions towards children with SEND and mental health difficulties in schools and their wider communities.

We are excited to host the next council meeting at King's Ford Academy. I best get the juice and biscuits ready!

Thursday 5th March 2026

Important Dates To lookout for:



6th January—The Lighthouse Opens

WB 16th March—One Plan Meetings

Neurodevelopmental Disorders Early Support in Colchester and Tendring

Please see below and overleaf where you can access support, help and information right now.

Autism Anglia
(East Anglia)

We support families with autistic children to navigate clinical and non-clinical services, including diagnosis, health, educational, social and financial support.

Telephone Number: 01206 57678
Email Address: advocacy@autism-anglia.org.uk

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service
(Essex)

Our Neurodevelopmental Pathway Coordinators support ages 0-25 with neurodevelopmental conditions, such as Autism, ADHD and Dyspraxia, providing consistent individualised information, resources and support.

Telephone Number: 0300 247 0013
(Monday-Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm)

Families InFocus
(Essex)

We provide advice, support and information to families with SEND children on education, disability benefits and other areas of support. We also run weekend activity clubs in Colchester and Chelmsford for SEND children and their siblings.

Telephone Number: 01245 353575
(Monday-Friday 10:00am - 4:00pm, with 24 hour answerphone)
Email Address: helpline@essex.org.uk

The MAZE Group
(North East Essex)

We have a unique approach to SEND which offers insights into how children with additional needs experience the world. We have free monthly coffee mornings in Colchester, Clacton-on-Sea, Mistley and Harwich and a specialist weekly programme available online and face-to-face in Colchester, Clacton and Harwich.

In addition, we offer the programme in a video series as well as a course on navigating the SEND system. We also provide specialist support for parents who have additional needs. Our aim is to guide, advise and support you for as long as you need us.

Telephone Numbers: 07809 900161 or 07708 873023
Email Addresses: amanda.towns@themazegroup.co.uk
sue.anderton@themazegroup.co.uk

Essex Family Forum
(Essex)

We are a Parent Carer Forum (PCF) which ensure services in their area meet their needs and improve outcomes of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families. Share your experiences via our online Graffiti Wall on our website or email us.

Email Address: hello@essexfamilyforum.org

Supporting Your Neurodiverse Child - Resource Pack
(Essex Family Forum)

Supporting Your Neurodiverse Child is a pack that is available to all parents and carers and includes information about Neurodiversity, the diagnostic process, information on support for your child at school, sensory needs, emotional regulation, health and wellbeing and much more. The pack is available to download or you can request a hard copy to be delivered to you via our website.

Email Address: hello@essexfamilyforum.org

If you require one of these leaflets please ask.

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The Lighthouse

At King's Ford Academy we have an Autism Support Centre (ASC) called The Lighthouse which is an enhanced provision for 8 pupils. The ASC supports autistic pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan (where the primary need is Autism) in accessing mainstream school.

What is the ASC?

Some mainstream schools across Essex have extra support available for pupils with special needs and disabilities. These are called 'Enhanced Provisions'. These are not the same as special schools: Enhanced Provisions provide a safe space for pupils to overcome their barriers to learning within a mainstream school. The dedicated ASC teams support pupils to build their attendance in mainstream lessons over time. When in the ASC, pupils can access their work and complete timetabled interventions that meet their specific needs.

Across Essex, there are eight primary Autism Support Centres and four secondary Autism Support Centres.

To have a placement in one of the Autism Support Centres a child must have:

- a diagnosis of autism
- a finalised Education Health and Care Plan for children or young people with autism as the **primary need**
- The **cognitive ability to access the mainstream academic curriculum** with appropriate support from the autism support centre to overcome their barriers to learning.

Places within the ASCs are requested via the annual review process. All requests are carefully considered by the Essex Autism Panel.

The purpose of the ASC is to ensure that the pupils attending the centre make progress as detailed within their Education Health and Care Plan. The ASC provides enhanced support using evidence-based strategies, to enable the pupil to spend increasing amounts of time accessing the classroom and engaging with their peers in a mainstream setting.

Please note that pupils who are currently educated within King's Ford Academy mainstream setting must follow the same process, to ensure equity for all students in the county.

What does a day in the ASC look like for our pupils?

ASC pupils are greeted every morning by the ASC team. Pupils who are not yet able to attend morning class time remain in the ASC to complete structured activities.

Throughout the day, pupils are encouraged to complete their individualised timetables. These visual timetables are created with the pupil's input and are tailored to meet the pupil's particular interests and provisions set out in their EHCP/One Plan. Most pupils will attend core subjects, or complete the work set in the ASC. All pupils have the option to return to the ASC should they become dysregulated- the ASC is a supervised safe space where they can regulate with access to the right resources. To help avoid dysregulation, pupils have timetabled regulation time built into their timetable.

ASC pupils can attend break and lunch time in the ASC. Some pupils prefer to be accompanied to the hall to collect their food. Some use mainstream areas to socialise with their peers. During social time, pupils are encouraged to engage in Social and Communication activities. The amount of time spent in the ASC will vary for each child, depending on their needs. The overall aim is to support each child to overcome any barriers they face in attending the mainstream classroom. Therefore, the amount of time spent in the ASC will reduce overtime, as the child is more able to spend increasing amounts of time in their mainstream classroom.