

# Social Communication Outreach Team



Gosberton House School  
South Lincolnshire

Last updated September 2012  
by:  
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Social Communication Outreach Team  
Gosberton House School

What are we?  
How can we work  
together ?

## About us

- ⇒ Gosberton House School is a National Autistic Society (NAS) Accredited setting.
- ⇒ The members of staff who work within the Social Communication Outreach Team have specialist Autism training and day-to-day hands on experience of working with children with Autism/Aspergers and Social Communication Disorders.
- ⇒ The Social Communication Outreach team provides a specialist support service for children and young people with social communication needs age 3 -19, and those supporting them in educational settings.
- ⇒ We recognise that pupils with Social Communication needs may have specific individual needs. Our team can identify what these needs are and work with staff in schools to develop support programmes that will benefit the individual and the school
- ⇒ Children and young people do not need a statement of special educational needs to access support from the outreach team.
- ⇒ The child or young person must have a need in the area of Social Communication in order to be referred to our service, and parental consent must be obtained for our involvement.

## Contacts

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## **Roles and Responsibilities of the School receiving Outreach support**

- ⇒ To contact the Social Communication Outreach Team when you need advice/input.
- ⇒ To contact the Social Communication Outreach Team if you require INSET
- ⇒ To pass on information from Social Communication Outreach, to relevant TAs, parents and other agencies.
- ⇒ To get parents to sign a consent form before involvement from Social Communication Outreach.
- ⇒ To provide us with a copy of the pupil's statement, where applicable, and most recent IEP.
- ⇒ When action is agreed between Social Communication Outreach and school, it is presumed that the school will act upon the advice given before the next visit in order to move practice forward.
- ⇒ To read the advice given in the Social Communication booklet, which is in the SEN handbook in every school, before contacting the Social Communication Outreach Team.
- ⇒ **To ensure that all children you ask outreach to be involved with have a Social Communication need.**

## **What we can offer**

- ⇒ As an Outreach Team we offer support to schools in 3 main areas:

### **Consultancy**

- ⇒ Observation
- ⇒ Meetings
- ⇒ Helping to create an Autism friendly environment
- ⇒ Recommending strategies for dealing with challenging behaviour
- ⇒ Enabling development of social skills and communication programmes
- ⇒ Target setting
- ⇒ Writing individual IEPs
- ⇒ Support staff to enable pupils to access the curriculum
- ⇒ Providing support for transition.

### **Training**

- ⇒ Offer a variety of training opportunities
- ⇒ Practical workshops/presentations
- ⇒ INSET/staff meetings

- ⇒ Specific training, tailored to the needs of the setting.
- ⇒ Opportunities to visit an NAS accredited school and see a working Autism friendly environment.
- ⇒ Training days for all areas of school staffing, (TAs, Teachers, SENCOs, Governors etc), on general Autism awareness and on specific topics within that eg Social Stories, IEPs etc
- ⇒ Presentations for Pupils of all ages, at an appropriate level.
- ⇒ ELKLAN training-Speech and Language Support for Verbally Able children with Autism

### **Support Groups**

- ⇒ Reach Out group for parents of children with Social Communication who attend a mainstream setting.
- ⇒ Helpline Monday pm-an opportunity to speak to a member of the Social Communication Outreach Team.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of the Social Communication Outreach Specialist Teacher**

- ⇒ To help identify the needs of the pupil/staff/school
- ⇒ To set targets/advise strategies to help address these needs
- ⇒ Provide resources and information to support schools to develop IEPs
- ⇒ Provide copies of notes from visits and access to any recommended resources
- ⇒ Provide reports, where appropriate and requested by the school/Local Authority.
- ⇒ Attendance at Annual Reviews/TAC meetings where appropriate.
- ⇒ We aim to give an appointment as soon as one is available but due to a high demand for the service, there may be some wait after first contact.