



Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)

Parent Newsletter

In this edition of the newsletter, we remind you of the purpose of the PINS programme, share what's been happening so far in Hertfordshire and provide resources for parents.

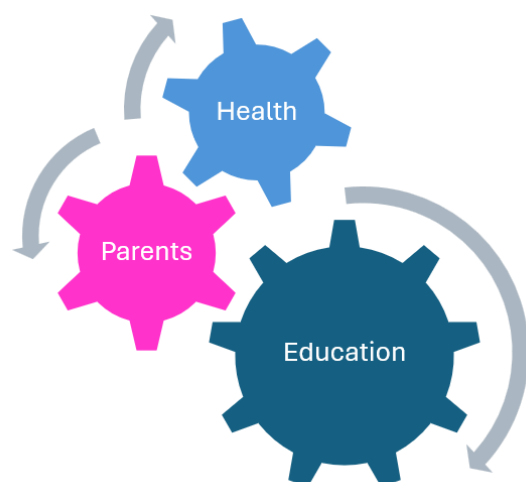
PINS

Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) is a national programme which aims to improve outcomes for children and young people who are neurodiverse and attending mainstream primary schools.

It is funded by NHS England in partnership with the Department for Education, Department for Health and Social Care and the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF).

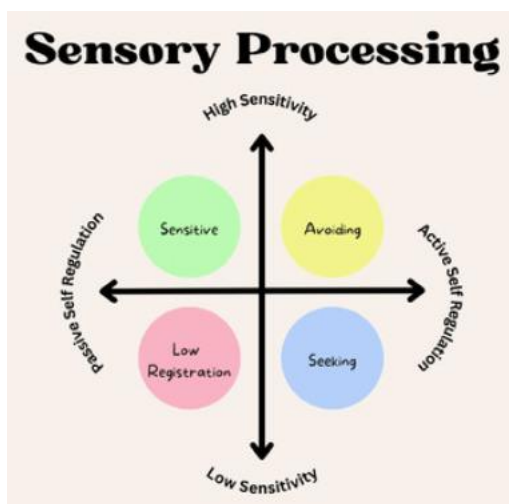
The programme is bringing health and education specialists and parent carer forum representatives into mainstream primary settings to:

- Help shape whole school SEND provision
- Provide early interventions at a school level
- Upskill school staff
- Support and strengthen partnerships between schools and parent carers
- Support and strengthen partnerships between Parent Carer Forums and Integrated Care Boards



Education

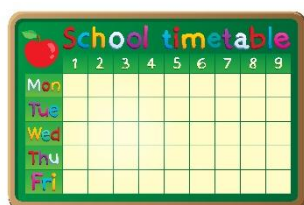
Sensory Environment



Last term schools were invited to attend a training session on Understanding Sensory Needs and whole class sensory provision, run by Hertfordshire County Council’s Specialist Advisory Services. The aim was to support schools to better understand how sensory regulation develops in neurodivergent children and to look at how whole-class adaptations can be implemented.

Schools also undertook an initial sensory and physical environmental audit to ensure staff were aware of how well the school environment meets the needs of neurodiverse children.

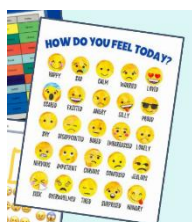
Speech, Language and Communication



In the spring terms, schools can also attend training in Speech, Language and Communication Needs which aims to support schools to better understand the use of language within the classroom and the importance of whole-class adaptation to support children to access the curriculum and learning.

Some schools will take part in a follow up learning walk focusing on the changes and adaptation which have been made in terms of classroom language.

Behaviour



Understanding behaviour training has also been offered to schools in the spring terms with the aim to

- Aid understanding of how SEND impacts the way a child processes and responds.
- To better understand behaviour as communication and the purpose of behaviour for the individual child.



- To equip staff with strategies and tools to analyse behaviour and work therapeutically to support and manage the need.

Schools will also be receiving tailored support from Hertfordshire County Council Specialist Advisory Service regarding one or more of the following areas:

- Whole-class sensory provision
- Adaptive Teaching
- Speech, Language and Communication provision

Parents

Parent meetings continue to be held at the schools with support from the Herts Parent Carer Involvement PINS Officers.

The focus of the second meetings at many schools has been to bring parents and school staff together to discuss and share ideas about the following topics.



The SEND support at the school

Priority areas at the school during the PINS project



The ladder of co-production and opportunities for parents and school to work together

3rd meetings are already underway and will be tailored based on local parent preferences. At some schools the SENCo will be sharing training that the school has received with the parents and asking parents for their experiences and thoughts.

There will also be a focus on creating a sustainable partnership between parents and the school beyond the end of the PINS project.

Steps have been taken to try to ensure all parents that want to be involved in the project can be. Examples include, planned attendance at a parents evening to meet with parents informally, the use of translators at a meeting and an evening on-line meeting.

We'd love to hear from you about PINS! Email us at contact@hertsparentcarers.org.uk.

Health



In addition to the training detailed above, schools have been offered training run by Nessie about

- Supporting neurodiverse young people's mental health
- Looking at risk factors
- Psychoeducation (education about diagnosis, symptoms and treatments)
- Assessment of needs and evidence-based interventions



This link includes details about [services for children and young people that can be accessed via your school.](#)

Thank you for reading this newsletter!

Please see the next page for resources

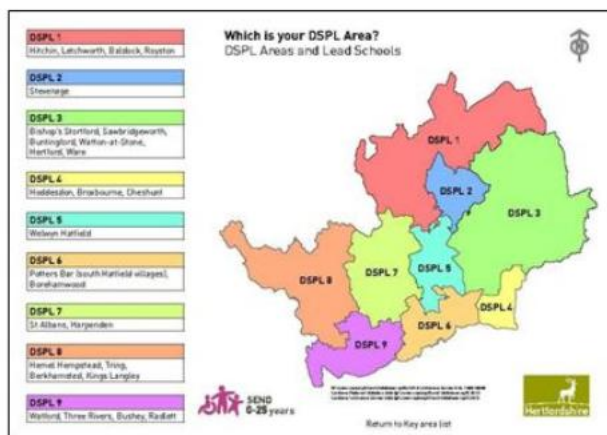
Supporting Your Neurodivergent Child Handbook

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/media-library/documents/resource-area-documents/supporting-your-neurodiverse-child-handbook-pdf-6.6mb.pdf>

Delivering Special Provision Locally

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/education-support/delivering-special-provision-locally-dspl.aspx>

One way in which Hertfordshire provides support to children and young people with SEND across the county is through Delivering Special Provision Locally groups (DSPLs).



The Toolbox

<https://thetoolbox.mindler.co.uk/>

The Toolbox is a free service where young people can get online support if they have, or think they might have, Autism or ADHD.

Hertfordshire GRID – SEND and additional needs

<https://thegrid.org.uk/send-and-additional-needs>

Information, guidance and support for Hertfordshire schools and academies – but also informative for parents.

HAND Card

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/courses-and-activities-in-hertfordshire/hertfordshire-additional-needs-database.aspx>

Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database is a voluntary register of disabled children and young people aged 0-25. By joining the register, you can get discounts at places around the county (and beyond). This includes perks and discounts to lots of places for family days out in Hertfordshire. Different places offer different things - for example, some places allow you to 'jump the queue', and others will have reduced entry rates.

Charities and Support Networks

ADD-Vance

<https://www.add-vance.org/>

ADD-vance is a dedicated group of professionals, who also happen to be parents of neurodivergent children. Their mission is to support neurodivergent families and the professionals involved in their care. They want to increase understanding, provide support and change perceptions of these complex neurological conditions, so as to improve the wellbeing and reduce the social isolation of these young people and their families.

SPACE

<https://spaceherts.org.uk/>

Space is an award winning Hertfordshire based charity supporting families of children and young people who are neurodivergent (Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia, Tourette's and other neurodiverse conditions.) Everything they do is designed to help parents navigate local services, build confidence, share knowledge and enjoy social opportunities and activities where parents, their children and young people can 'be themselves'.

Angels

<https://angelssupportgroup.org.uk/>

Angels is an experience-led charity, which provides individualised, professional expertise and advice. They work alongside parents to build understanding and to empower them to hear their child's voice. Their key aim is to maximise the individual potential of each child and young person.

Herts Parent Carer Involvement

<https://hertsparentcarers.org.uk/>

HPCI is an independent parent carer led organisation which aims to improve services for children and young people aged 0-25 years who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. They do this by ensuring that family voices are heard by service planners and decision makers.

Webinars - <https://hertsparentcarers.org.uk/webinars/>

This section links to all the recordings, presentations and handouts of sessions that HPCI have run in the past, so you can watch and read at a time that suits you!

SENDIASS

<https://www.hertssendiass.org.uk/home.aspx>

Hertfordshire SENDIASS is an impartial Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).

Potential Kids

[Welcome - Potential Kids](#)

Potential Kids offers social, sporting and educational activity sessions to neurodivergent children, young people and families.

Families in Focus

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

A Hertfordshire-based community interest company, that provides online evidence-based, award-winning therapeutic parenting courses.

Financial Support

Disability Living Allowance

<https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children>

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children may help with the extra costs of looking after a child who:

- is under 16
- has difficulties walking or needs much more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability