

Autism in Schools Action Plan December 2020

Areas for Action	Current Practice in Place	Actions	Delivered By	Timescale for Delivery
<p>To ensure a common baseline of content on autism for use in the delivery of all ITE programmes</p>	<p>Current focus within Initial Teacher Education (ITE) is based on inclusive pedagogy relative to additional support needs rather than condition specific content. This approach is supported through the current General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) Accreditation Framework for ITE Programmes and the existing GTCS Professional Standards for Teachers.</p>	<p>Sub-Group to progress co-creation of resources to aid greater standardisation of content on Autism across all ITE programmes.</p>	<p>National Autism Implementation Team (NAIT)</p> <p>National Autistic Society</p> <p>Scottish Autism</p> <p>AMASE (Autistic Mutual Aid Society Edinburgh)</p> <p>Scottish Government.</p> <p>Education Scotland</p> <p>Association of Directors of Education Scotland (ADES)</p> <p>Association of Support for Learning Officers (ASLO)</p> <p>Scottish Council of Deans of Education</p>	<p>February 2021</p>

			General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS).	
		Sub-Group to plan delivery of a launch event aimed at ITE course directors and local authority representatives to ensure awareness and understanding of and engagement in the delivery of these resources aimed at establishing a common baseline of ITE programme content on autism.	National Autism Implementation Team (NAIT) National Autistic Society Scottish Autism AMASE (Autistic Mutual Aid Society Edinburgh) Scottish Government Education Scotland Association of Directors of Education Scotland (ADES) Association of Support for Learning Officers (ASLO)	June 2020

			<p>Scottish Council of Deans of Education</p> <p>General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS).</p>	
		<p>GTCS to revise their current Accreditation Framework for ITE Programmes and Professional Standards documents to ensure specific reference is made to Autism, along with other co-occurring neuro-developmental differences.</p>	<p>Scottish Council of Deans of Education</p> <p>General Teaching Council for Scotland</p>	<p>June 2020</p>
		<p>General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) and sub-group to co-create autism-specific guidance to accompany the revised Professional Standards due for publication in early 2021. This guidance to form part of the second tranche of Professional Guides designed to support and enhance teacher professionalism, with publication by 2021. GTCS Autism Professional Guide to be</p>	<p>National Autism Implementation Team (NAIT)</p> <p>National Autistic Society</p> <p>Scottish Autism</p> <p>AMASE (Autistic Mutual Aid Society Edinburgh)</p> <p>Scottish Government</p>	<p>November 2020</p>

		published 19 November 2020 to align with publication of its Teaching Scotland magazine which focuses on Additional Support Needs (ASN) and Additional Support for Learning (ASL)	<p>Association of Directors of Education Scotland (ADES)</p> <p>Association of Support for Learning Officers (ASLO)</p> <p>Scottish Council of Deans of Education</p> <p>General Teaching Council for Scotland.</p>	
More distillation of inclusive pedagogical work to ensure a deeper understanding within the system	National Framework for Inclusion has been designed to ensure that all students and teachers are appropriately guided and supported from the outset and throughout their careers towards gaining the required knowledge and understanding of inclusive education	Education Scotland and Scottish Universities Inclusion Group to develop practical examples and strategies to support the inclusion of autistic children and learners in ELC and schools. These should be set out on the National Improvement Hub.	<p>Education Scotland</p> <p>University of Edinburgh</p>	June 2021

Wider sharing of quality practice by ES, local authorities, professional associations, autism organisation and others and evidence of good standards	<p>Education Scotland have established the National Improvement Hub, which is aimed at supporting practitioners.</p>	<p>The online module 'Inclusion Practice -The CIRCLE Framework: Secondary'. The original research, practice and resource was shared by City of Edinburgh Council, Queen Margaret University and NHS Lothian.</p>	<p>Education Scotland</p>	<p>July 2019</p>
	<p>Autism toolbox has a working group, and this provides a forum for disseminating good practice.</p>	<p>Education Scotland Audit of local authority strategies and approaches to supporting pupils with autism – Most commonly used approaches will be presented on the Autism Toolbox and the National Improvement Hub.</p> <p>Autism Summary of Evidence for Effective Interventions. November 2019</p> <p>Summary: Local Authority Autism Professional Learning November 2019</p>	<p>Education Scotland</p>	<p>September 2019</p>
		<p>Establishment of Autism Toolbox Working Group to support the development and launch of the Refreshed Autism Toolbox.</p> <p>Focus is to share practice and develop updated information, guidance and resources set within the Scottish Context.</p>	<p>Autism Toolbox Working Group</p>	<p>November 2019</p>

		<p>The online module 'Inclusion Practice -The CIRCLE Framework: Primary'</p> <p>The original research, practice and resource was shared by City of Edinburgh Council, Queen Margaret University and NHS Lothian.</p>	Education Scotland	December 2020
<p>How we ensure a continuum of support for ongoing professional practice and development.</p>	<p>Autism Toolbox has been in place as the main practitioner resource for those working with autistic children and learners in Early Learning and Childcare settings (ELC) and schools. The refresh has updated information, guidance and professional learning.</p>	<p>Draw actions under 1 & 2 together into a framework to create a continuum of support for both trainee teachers and already established teaching staff.</p>	<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>Education Scotland</p>	<p>June 2020 – To be updated in light of other completion dates above.</p>
		<p>Engagement – Publish the continuum and engage with senior education leaders, including Regional Improvement Collaboratives.</p>	<p>Scottish Government</p> <p>Education Scotland</p>	<p>June 2020 – To be updated in light of other completion dates above.</p>
	<p>Education Scotland developed an Inclusion Module, which is aimed at practitioners within schools.</p>	<p>Values based statement (Aspirational Statement) to be further refined to reflect the actions taken to deliver the continuum of support.</p>	<p>Scottish Government</p>	<p>January 2021</p>
	<p>Education Scotland continues to develop free online professional learning</p>	<p>Development of the online module 'Introduction to Autism and Inclusive Practice</p>	<p>Education Scotland</p> <p>Autism Toolbox Working Group</p>	<p>June 2020 – To be updated in light of other completion dates above</p>

	<p>for inclusion to support practitioners.</p> <p>The Strategic Board for Education is looking at early phase of a teacher's career, and focusing on what additional support practitioners require at this early stage</p>	<p>The Autism Toolbox Working Group will continue to support the ongoing development of the refreshed Autism Toolbox to support ongoing professional learning for practitioners.</p>	<p>Autism Toolbox Working Group</p>	
	<p>Development of a strategic approach to support planning and delivery of professional learning.</p>	<p>Engagement with partners to support a consistent approach across ELC, schools, local authorities and Regional Improvement Collaboratives</p>	<p>Education Scotland</p> <p>National Autism Implementation Team (NAIT)</p> <p>NHS Education</p> <p>Scottish Government</p>	<p>June 2020</p>
<p>Community of Practice</p>	<p>Education Scotland already host a range of range of resources and information on the National Improvement Hub.</p>	<p>Actions under 3 & 4 will be drawn into the National Improvement Hub to ensure teachers and support staff have the most up to date information to enable them to support autistic learners. This will include the newly refreshed Autism Toolbox.</p>	<p>Education Scotland</p>	<p>Ongoing to ensure resources, information and training are up to date and relevant.</p>

		Inclusion leads within each Regional Improvement Collaboratives, as well as the link officer network will support the delivery and sharing of the resources and information. They will also support local training needs as part of a national continuum of support.		
Assurance Mechanism		An Implementation Group will be formed to help co-ordinate activities and ensure the work in the action plan is taken forward. Membership of the Implementation Group will be formed from current working group members. A progress report will be produced and reported to Deputy First Minister 1 year after the action plan is published.	Scottish Government	Implementation group established following publication of action plan. Progress report published 1 year after publication of action plan.