

This slide is for teachers – not to be shown to pupils. Please show slides 2-5 only

Summary

This year the National Autistic Society celebrates its 60th anniversary. We have come a long way and today almost everyone has heard of autism. But far too few people understand what it is like to be autistic. Now it is time to change attitudes. We have therefore decided, based on public feedback, to change World Autism Awareness Week to World Autism Acceptance Week.

This resource is centred around a short video of a boy called Eli reading out a poem his mother wrote after asking him about being autistic. The video can be shared in assembly and/or circle time. It is designed to introduce children to the idea of difference and how our differences are what make us unique and special. Pupils will be encouraged to think about what makes them 'them' and learn to appreciate and value difference within their school community. They will also be encouraged to think about what they can do to support people who are different.

Follow-up learning activities are also available, giving pupils an opportunity to explore difference in more depth. You can download them from www.autism.org.uk/resources

Exploring autism

Eli displays some characteristics that other autistic children share, such as dislike of noise, difficulty answering questions about his day and sitting still. If you want to explore autism with your pupils, please do but be mindful of any children you have on the autism spectrum in your class. It is important to tell the children that being autistic isn't just about finding things difficult. It is also about having incredible strengths. For example, Eli above is brilliant at reading and remembering the poem.

PSHE Curriculum links

- To identify and respect the differences between people.
- That differences between people arise from a number of factors.
- Ways in which they are all unique.
- Understand that there has never been and will never be another 'them'.

Objectives

- Promote acceptance of diversity; respect and accept differences.
- Explore ideas about what makes people who they are.
- Make suggestions about how best to support pupils with different needs.
- Inspire schools to bring their community together to increase understanding of autism.



National
Autistic
Society

World Autism
Acceptance Week
28 March – 3 April 2022



Schools activity for World
Autism Acceptance Week,
kindly sponsored by
Axcis Education

The National Autistic Society is a charity registered in
England and Wales (269425) and in Scotland (SC039427)



Exploring differences

Eli likes...

This is Eli



National
Autistic
Society

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[Click here](#) to view
Eli reading his poem

How you can help



Be kind

Give space

Wait



National
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What makes
me 'ME'?

I'm different and
special because...



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