



SWiFT

Schools With Families Together



A course for Parents and Carers of children with autism spectrum and communication and Interaction differences.

In partnership with schools, SENSS Communication and Interaction team offer a short course for parents and carers to support them to understand their child's needs.

The course is facilitated by SENSS Specialist Advisory Teachers and co-delivered with the school SENCo or other key staff. Parents attend alongside school staff to enable the school and the family to work together to build a shared understanding of their child's differences and support needs.

SWiFT courses are hosted and delivered in schools. They are interactive and informal and offer the opportunity to learn about differences in communication and interaction whilst meeting other parents/carers of children with similar needs in the same school. There are loads of opportunities for discussion and reflection and sessions include a mix of information, discussion, film clips, activities and signposting to useful resources and strategies.

The course is relevant for both parents and schools and creates the opportunity for sharing information and insights about the child / pupil parents come away with new strategies to try and a shared understanding with the school team.

SWiFT Course Content

There are four sessions or 'modules' each of which focusses on one of the key areas of difference for children with Autism as follows:

1. Understanding Autism
2. Communication and Interaction
3. Sensory Processing
4. Emotional Wellbeing



Usually, the course is offered over 4 consecutive weeks, with 4 sessions of approximately 90 minutes each, but this is flexible, and some schools may choose to offer it as a one-day course or spread the sessions out over a longer period of time.

Participants receive a workbook with all the information from the course included. Each family is offered two places on the course so both parents / carers or one parent and another relative of friend can attend together.

As it is part of the SENSS Communication and Interaction Support Service universal offer to schools, the course is **free for parents and carers to attend**, though schools may ask for a donation towards refreshments and printing course materials.

Parents / carers should speak to the SENCo at their child's school if interested in attending a SWiFT course. The SENCo will liaise with the Advisory Teacher.