Communication and Interaction

Some of the aspects of difficulty included in this area are:

1. Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
2. Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

Pupils with *Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)* find it difficult to:

- Understand and use non-verbal and verbal communication
- Understand social behaviour, which affects their ability to interact with children and adults
- Think and behave inflexibly, which may be shown in restricted, obsessional or repetitive activities.

Pupils with ASD cover the full range of ability and the severity of their impairment varies widely. Some pupils also have learning disabilities or other difficulties, making diagnosis difficult.

Pupils with Asperger's syndrome should be recorded in this category. These pupils share the same triad of impairments but have higher intellectual abilities and their language development is different from the majority of pupils with autism.

Useful Contacts:

For more information contact: http://www.autism.org.uk/about-autism

Local organisations offering information, advice and support for children and young people with ASD and their families include: www.burgessautistictrust.org.uk and www.caspabromley.org.uk

Pupils with *Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)* may have a range of difficulties with:

- Speech and language development (some of these may naturally resolve with child development).
- Speech sounds and production of speech
- Expressive language (difficulty finding/remembering the right word and joining them together meaningfully in more complex sentences)
- Receptive language (difficulty in understanding the spoken and/sometimes written language, difficulties organising thoughts causing verbal difficulties with communication and difficulties recording thoughts in writing).
- Understanding or responding to verbal cues from others, or in understanding and using appropriate language for social interaction.

Useful Contacts:

For more information contact:

www.afasic.org.uk