

Autism Education Trust: Information for Parents and Carers

What is the Autism Education Trust?

The Autism Education Trust (AET) is a national partnership that operates across England. The AET creates and delivers a national professional development programme to enhance knowledge, understanding and skills in the workforce across Early Years, Schools and Post-16 settings to meet the needs of autistic children and young people. The AET is supported by the Department for Education (DfE). It is a change management programme.

The AET vision is a world where all autistic children and young people experience a positive education that supports wellbeing.

The AET's mission is to empower the education workforce and support them in securing a positive education that supports wellbeing for autistic children and young people.

The content developed by the AET has been developed by autism experts. It has also been coproduced with parents and carers of autistic children and autistic young people. All of the materials are Continuous Professional Development (CPD) certified and are supported by the DfE. More information on the AET is available here: <https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/>

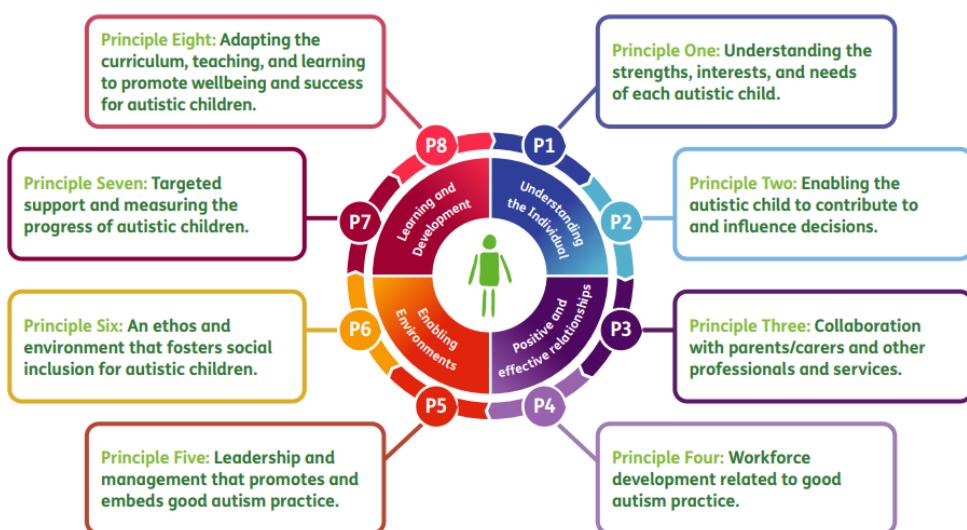
What is the structure of the training?

The training consists of a number of modules. The first of which is Making Sense of Autism. This module aims to support practitioners to better understand autism and to develop skills in understanding how to personalise the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments in order to include autistic pupils in the classroom based on differences associated with autism.

The second module is Good Autism Practice. This provides more in-depth strategies and how to include the autistic pupil and their families in the planning and provision process. In Halton we would like each school SENCO or autism ambassador to attend this training in order to cascade this back in their own setting or school.

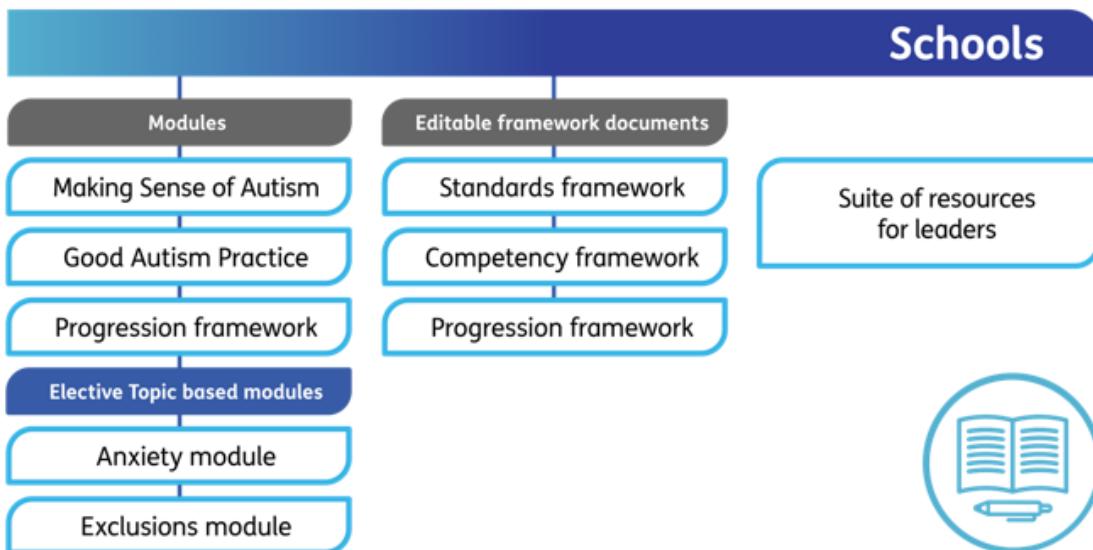
The AET Eight GAP Principles

This is how the Eight Principles of Good Autism Practice are embedded in the four themes.



There are two further bolt on modules Anxiety and Exclusions. Our aim is to deliver these once settings and schools have attended Making Sense of Autism or Good Autism Practice. Additional modules are added on an annual basis. Our aims will be to provide a network of opportunities to support settings and schools to further develop their skills and provide evidence based support to autistic children and young people.

Schools Professional Development Programme



In addition there are standards and competency frameworks designed to help settings, schools and colleges to evaluate their provision. Schools can evaluate their success against each of the core competencies.

There is also a progression framework which allows practitioners to assess a child or young person based on a range of criteria. The features of the progression framework are:

- Focuses on areas where the autistic child or young person may need **additional support** (alerts practitioner and increases awareness)
- Focuses on **individual priorities**
- Provides a **starting point for ‘learning conversations’** about goal-setting and provision-planning, e.g. Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)

What are the aims of developing the AET in Halton?

- We would like every setting, school and college to receive Making Sense of Autism training so that practitioners understand autism and can support the inclusivity of children and young people by making appropriate adjustments.
- To develop a network of training for SENCOs and autism leads in school so that they can cascade training and embed the Good Autism Practice principles.
- To support the inclusion of settings and schools so that they are equipped to meet the needs of autistic pupils, so that fewer autistic children and young people are educated outside of Halton.
- To encourage settings and schools to use the progression framework for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans in order to support with setting appropriate outcomes and to evaluate the impact of these.