



# **Our Case for Support**

**“Unlocking Neurodivergent Potential”**

**2025/26**

# Who are we?

The Accessible Learning Foundation (ALF) is a registered charity (registered charity number 1209876 in England & Wales) founded by Rt Hon Matt Hancock in 2023 to support those who are neurodivergent within primary schools, the justice system and the workplace.




# What is neurodivergence?

Neurodivergence is the term used for when someone's brain processes, learns, and/or behaves differently from what is considered "typical".

**It matters not your gender, race or sexuality - neurodivergence is a cross-over diversity that is often overlooked as it is invisible. Neurodivergent conditions include:**

- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- Dyscalculia
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)
- Tourette Syndrome



Did you know that **40% of entrepreneurs are neurodivergent?** So, although being neurodivergent can bring its challenges, it also brings many strengths.



## Why is there a need for ALF?

20% of the population are neurodivergent. We are targeting 3 sectors that have shocking statistics.

## > Education

Only **1 in 5** young people with dyslexia leave school with it identified and **97% of excluded students have special educational needs**. Early screening and support, especially in primary schools, could transform these outcomes. With 5.5 million primary pupils in the UK, an estimated 1.1 million neurodivergent students need assistance.

## > Justice System

Over **50% of prisoners may be dyslexic, and at least 25% have ADHD**, though recent estimates suggest higher figures. Providing education, support and training reduces reoffending rates and helps individuals reintegrate into society.

## > Employment

Employment outcomes for those who are neurodivergent are also poor - **just 22% of autistic people are in any kind of employment** and those who are in employment often find their employers provide little or no support. Businesses need to understand the strengths neurodivergent individuals bring to the workplace and provide better support.

As a charity, we understand that neurodivergence is a strength, if supported and embraced. We believe that everyone deserves to thrive.



# Our 3 key aims and objectives

We are funding and campaigning for:

## 1 Early identification and support of neurodivergent children in primary schools

- Low or no-cost teacher training to support neurodivergent children.
  - Online screening in primary schools for all neurodivergent conditions.
  - Changes to government policy to ensure all primary school children are screened for neurodivergence.
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## 2 The provision of better support for neurodivergent individuals within the justice system

- Better awareness, support and understanding of neurodivergent conditions within this sector.
  - Provision of sessions to prison staff and prisoners explaining the strengths, challenges and how best to support and manage the various conditions.
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## 3 A wider understanding and support of neurodivergence in workplaces

- All businesses to better understand and support neurodivergent communities and employees by ensuring neurodivergence has a clear and stand-alone focus in their DEI policies.





# What sets ALF apart from other organisations?

- 1** A focus on early identification of neurodivergent conditions. We aim to provide free screening in primary schools, at the point of need.
- 2** A focus on identifying all neurodivergent conditions through screening. Neurodivergent conditions co-occur and all need to be supported.
- 3** A focus on teacher training to ensure that those screened and identified are better supported.
- 4** A greater focus on support of the neurodivergent within the justice system.



## Why do we need your support?

There are around **1.1 million** neurodivergent primary school aged children in the UK. We have made them our initial focus.

Neurodivergent children face several adverse outcomes at school including; higher rates of peer victimisation, increased school exclusion and poorer academic achievements and mental health if not identified early and supported. Rapid identification of educational needs allows for the quick implementation of necessary adjustments, helping more students to learn effectively, efficiently and maximise their potential.



# Who benefits from the screening and support?

## Who

## How

**SENCO**  
(Special Educational  
Needs Co-ordinator)



- Accessible/inclusive approach
  - Reduces the need for costly specialist assessments-instant guidance is provided
  - Saves time in gathering multi-source information
  - Ensures learners with the most complex needs are identified
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**Teachers**



- Useful understanding of groups/classes at start of the academic year and prepares learners for times of transition
  - Individual guidance, easy to access, to aid more informed conversations
  - Aids planning and encourages accessible routes of delivery of learning outcomes
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**Student/Learner**



- Timely advice at the start of year/course to ensure support is given and confidence is not lost
  - Child-centred approach to supporting the learner rather than making labelled assumptions, information about how the learner is feeling is included
  - Practical guidance available immediately
  - Strengths as well as challenges highlighted with wellbeing support and study skills tools included
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**Parents / Carers**



- A better understanding of their child
- The ability to better support the child
- Ability to work in a more informed way with their child's school to improve outcomes

# What does it cost? And what your support could help fund

**£15**

cost of screening and  
supporting 1 child

**£450**

cost of screening and  
supporting a class

**£5,000**

cost of screening and  
supporting a school



# How to support us



Make a one-off donation



Fundraise by taking part in physical challenges or get creative and fundraise in other ways. See the A to Z of ideas on our website [www.accessiblelearningfoundation.org/get-involved](http://www.accessiblelearningfoundation.org/get-involved)



Payroll Giving - If your company has a scheme, please nominate us as your charity of choice or consider a regular monthly donation.



Non-financial support - As a relatively new charity we recognise the benefit of non-financial support. If you believe you can help us by providing skills and contacts, please let us know.

Fundraising has so many benefits. It can help with motivation and development, team building, employee and customer engagement and so much more.



## Contact us to find out more

Individuals, families, schools, communities and society need your support more than ever. Ensuring that every child and every young person has the chance to thrive will have a positive and long-lasting impact on everyone, not least themselves.

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