

What are the curriculum issues in a school for girls with autism?

Sarah Wild – Headteacher Limpsfield Grange School

 Sarah Wild@head_limpsfield

Curriculum Issues

- Pressure of current progress measure v what they actually need (WACI)
- No standardised framework for measuring wellbeing, achievement communication and independence
- Terminal examinations v controlled assessments

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Curriculum Issues

- Impact of anxiety or mental health on learning
- Sex & Relationships Education
- Safeguarding

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Strategies & suggestions

- Behaviour as communication
- Work with whole family
- Acknowledge anxiety and work with them to create strategies and solutions
- Ask the girls how / if they would like to be supported socially

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Strategies & suggestions

- Teach social language and rules explicitly
- Bespoke and personalised Careers Guidance / SRE
- Tell them it will be OK / be positive / tell them that their reactions are normal

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Strategies & suggestions

- Work with their specialist interests
- Make learning concrete contextual and visual
- Help them structure tasks (break it down) and organise homework or independent study

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Strategies & suggestions

- Add structure for them – social times / weekends / holidays
- Check understanding often – masking will often stop the girls saying that they don't understand

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Strategies & suggestions

- Working with others who can model appropriate social behaviour and responses
- Deconstruct social situations as soon as you can to assist understanding
- Meltdowns shutdowns and overloads

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