Ambitious about Autism

Standing with autistic children and young people.

Education | Employment | Family support

We are Ambitious about Autism

We believe every autistic child and young person has the right to be themselves and realise their ambitions.

We started as one school and have become a movement for change. We champion rights, campaign for change and create opportunities.

I don't think Jackson would be the young man he is now had it not been for the support of Ambitious about Autism."

Helen, mum to Jackson who attended TreeHouse School and Ambitious College

What is autism?

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability which is estimated to affect more than 1 in 100 people in the UK. Autism affects the way a person communicates and how they experience the world around them.

Every autistic person is different. Many autistic people live independently, but others need additional support. Some autistic people also have a learning disability or a mental health condition.

Autistic children and young people face enormous challenges due to a lack of understanding of their needs. Early intervention and support are critical if autistic children and young people are to be themselves and realise their ambitions.

More than 1 in 100
people in the UK are autistic.

Girls are three times less likely to receive an autism diagnosis than boys.

Four in five
autistic young people experience a mental health issue.

Many autistic pupils are missing out on education.

Excellent education

We run a number of specialist schools and colleges across London and the South East. Our education services support autistic children and young people to be themselves and realise their ambitions.

TreeHouse School

Age range: 3 – 19
Caters for: Autistic children and young people with learning disabilities. Pupils must have a diagnosis of autism and an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

Muswell Hill, London

The Rise School

Age range: 4 – 18
Caters for: Autistic children and young people. Pupils must have a diagnosis of autism and an EHC plan.

Feltham, London

The Rise Sixth Form

Age range: 16 – 19
Caters for: Autistic young people. Students must have a diagnosis of autism and an EHC plan.

Isleworth and Feltham, London

Spring School

Age range: 4 – 19
Caters for: Autistic children and young people. Pupils must have a diagnosis of autism and an EHC plan.

Kingston, London

Ambitious College

Age range: 16 – 25
Caters for: Autistic young people with or without learning disabilities. Learners must have a diagnosis of autism and an EHC plan.

Tottenham and Isleworth, London

St. John's College

Age range: 16 – 25
Caters for: Autistic young people. Learners must have a diagnosis of autism and an EHC plan.

Brighton

Our educational approach

The Ambitious Approach is our model of education practice which is used in all our services.

We want to prepare children and young people for a happy and fulfilling life and, whilst doing so, afford them dignity, respect, and compassion. The Ambitious Approach is centred around improving the quality of life of autistic young people while they are in education and ensuring this quality of life continues into adulthood.

When pupils and learners leave our settings, we want them to find employment, go on to further education or training, and live fully as part of the communities of their choice.

Our curriculum focuses on the knowledge and skills that support quality of life and this is tailored to children and young people's interests, strengths and ambitions. We use a range of teaching and learning methods to meet learning objectives and our well-trained staff ensure our pupils and learners' emotional and physical needs are met so they can thrive and achieve.

Read more about our education services

Scan me

Employment opportunities for autistic people

We support autistic people to gain skills and experience in the workplace.

When they leave school, too few autistic young people move from education to employment. Our employability programme, Employ Autism, aims to help more autistic people join the workforce.

The programme acts as a bridge to employment for autistic people. We work with employers and careers professionals to increase knowledge and acceptance of autism and, as a result, create opportunities within the workplace.

Our training courses aim to empower individuals and organisations to become more autism confident and work successfully with autistic young people.

70%

of autistic young people fear discrimination if they disclose to employers that they are autistic.

Read more about our employment opportunities

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In the workplace

We have a successful track record supporting autistic young people to access paid internships.

Through our Employ Autism programme, we offer autistic people aged 18 and over access to paid internships in a range of businesses and organisations. We have previously partnered with the Civil Service, Visa, Ocado, Network Rail and many more.

All the opportunities we offer are with employers who have undertaken our full training on understanding autism in the workplace.

Some of our internships offer additional services to applicants, such as support during the recruitment process, feedback on applications and ongoing careers advice.

“My placement was my first experience of an internship - and it was great! Everyone in the department was friendly and kind and offered me support whenever I needed it.”

Autistic young person and Employ Autism intern

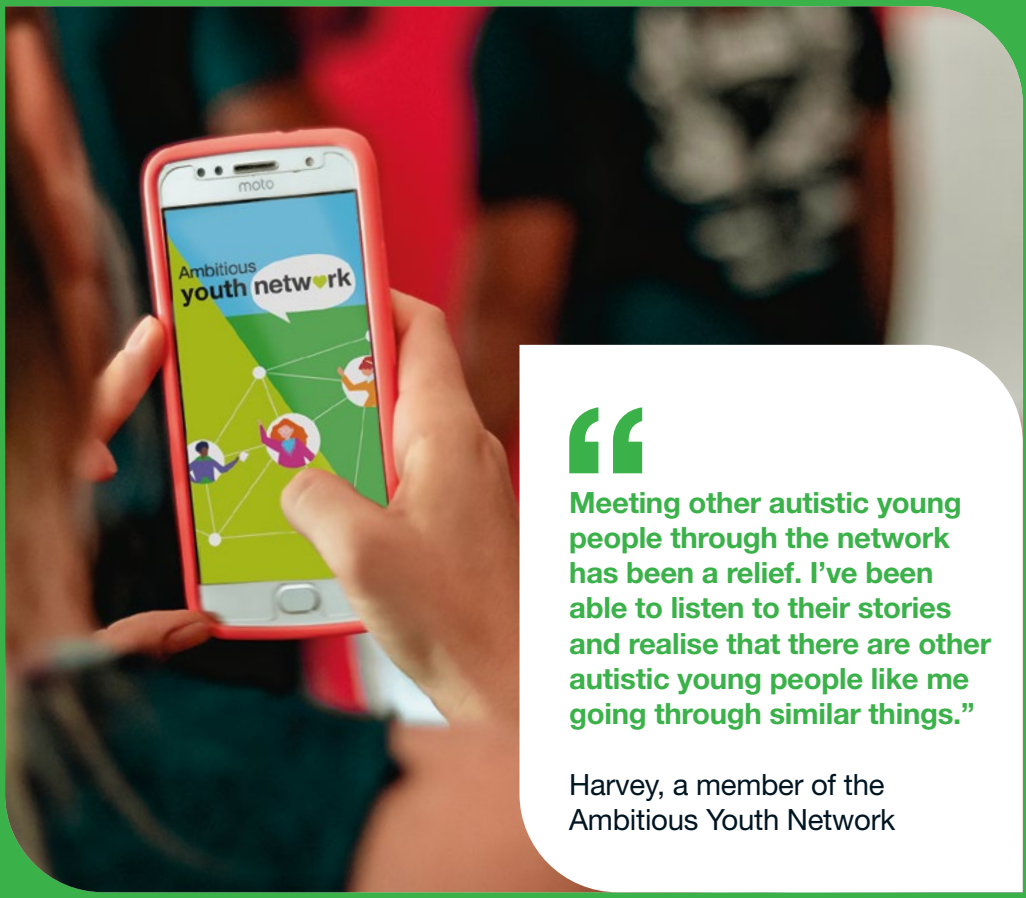
Ambitious Youth Network

Are you aged between 13-25? Join our Ambitious Youth Network online platform.

The Ambitious Youth Network offers autistic young people aged 13 to 25 a safe online space to help them understand their autistic identity and be themselves.

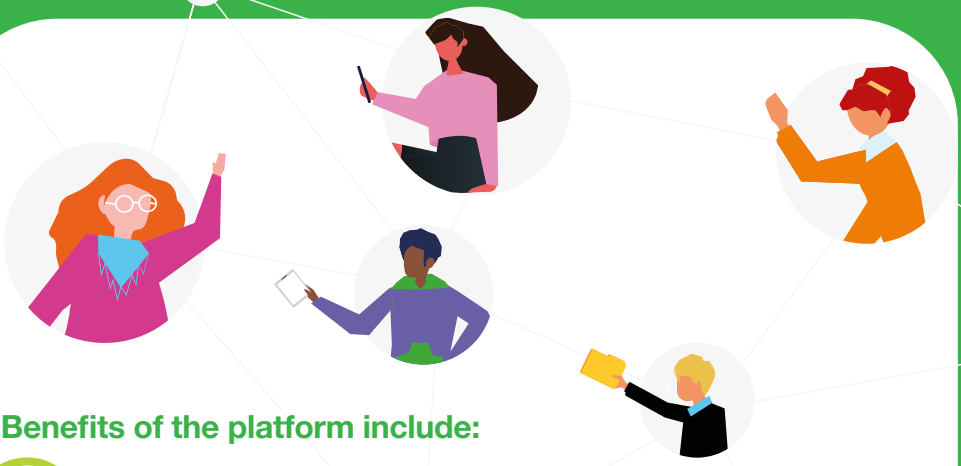
Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



Meeting other autistic young people through the network has been a relief. I've been able to listen to their stories and realise that there are other autistic young people like me going through similar things."

Harvey, a member of the Ambitious Youth Network



Benefits of the platform include:

Apply for opportunities that aim to educate the public about autism and to make life better for autistic young people.

Organisations we have worked with in the past include The Postal Museum, Compare the Market, Marsh McLennan and lots more.

Our opportunities are a great way to expand your knowledge and confidence and gain valuable experience.

Groups (16+) involve members of our Ambitious Youth Network, who provide expertise and advice to different organisations on autism.

Live feed where members can view information that we post daily from Ambitious about Autism and the autism and disability community.

Webinars available to all members of the Ambitious Youth Network, where expert guest speakers talk about their experiences and autism.

Past speakers have included autistic artists and musicians. Previous talks have featured topics such as travel or masking.

Download the Apple app

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Download the Android app

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Support for families

We provide families with clear, trusted and straightforward information about autism.

Whether you're looking for downloadable toolkits or short videos explaining key terms, our website has everything you need to feel more empowered and influence decisions about your child or young person's life across education, employment, health, social care and more.

Talk about Autism

Talk about Autism is an online community created for parents and carers of autistic children and young people. The community offers peer support and information resources to help you care for your child or young person.

Join the community

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Join today
forum.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk

Get involved

There are many ways that you can get involved and support Ambitious about Autism.

From taking on a challenge event or creating your own fundraising activity to volunteering or becoming a corporate partner.

Join us and stand with autistic children and young people across the nation. Together we can champion their rights, create opportunities and campaign for change.

I've chosen to raise money and awareness for Ambitious about Autism because they stood out to me for being amazing at helping out autistic people, giving them opportunities and making them feel heard."

Tom, fundraiser who took on the Ironman challenge

Get involved

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We are Ambitious about Autism

Ambitious about Autism is the national charity standing with autistic children and young people.

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Contact us

The Pears National Centre for Autism Education
Woodside Avenue, London N10 3JA

020 8815 5444
info@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk
ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk

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Ambitious about Autism

Ambitious about Autism is a registered charity in England and Wales: 1063184 and a registered company: 03375255.

Ambitious about Autism Schools Trust is an exempt charity in England and Wales and a registered company: 08335297.