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SEND FOCUS - Neurodiversity

We hear the term Neurodiversity used a lot these days, and recent research tells us that as many as 1 in 5 of us can be considered Neurodiverse, but what does it actually mean?

Neurodiversity describes the idea that we all experience the world around us in different ways, opening up the concept that different brains interpret things differently. The Child Mind Institute describes neurodiversity as 'a natural variation in how our brains work', reminding us there is no 'correct' way for them to process information they receive. Essentially – some people's brains simply work in a different way. I was given a great analogy recently by Specialist Advisory Teacher, Miriam Bristoll - it's like comparing Windows and Apple, they both make computers, but differently.

Recognising we all experience and interact with the world we live in differently, the term Neurodiversity was first used in the 1990's to fight the stigma and promote acceptance of people with Autism, and later more widely used to promote the equality of everyone by embracing our neurological differences.

Today, the term Neurodiversity is used to describe conditions such as: Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Tourettes, Developmental Coordination Disorder (Dyspraxia), Epilepsy, Anxiety, Developmental Language Disorder (DLD), acquired neurodiversity which includes conditions such as dementia or brain injuries, and more.



Where there is Neurodiversity there are a wealth of amazing traits to be celebrated and fostered, such as; a heightened level of creativity, an excellent ability to problem solve, high levels of hyper-focus and concentration, in-depth factual knowledge, excellent memory recall and attention to detail.

I wrote to you last week to explain how we are striving to make Albrighton Primary School as inclusive as possible, and how we are working with professionals to improve the school experience for Neurodiverse children. We are passionate about enabling each and every child to reach their full potential, with our core belief **'it doesn't matter what your starting point is, it's where you finish that counts'** going hand in hand with our motto **'only our best will do!'**

If you have anything you want to raise, ask or discuss please call the office to make an appointment or email me – SENDCO@albrightonprimary.com

Kindest Regards,
Darren Green
Deputy Headteacher and SENDCo.

