

National Autism Trainer Programme

Residential special schools and colleges

What is the National Autism Trainer Programme?

Anna Freud and AT-Autism have joined forces to deliver the ground-breaking [National Autism Trainer Programme](#) for NHS England. Between 2023-2025, we will train over 4,800 staff, across adult and children and young people inpatient; all age community mental health; health and justice; and residential special schools and colleges. This is a train the trainer programme, whereby staff will qualify as Trainers who then train colleagues in their work setting.

Who can take part?

The training is suitable for all professionals who work in or with residential special schools and colleges across England. This includes but is not limited to teachers, SENCOs, support staff, admission officers, social workers, and mental health practitioners. No specialist or high-level skills are required to attend this course.

What will I learn?

- A deeper understanding of barriers experienced by autistic children and young people, and how to support autistic differences in your setting.
- The development of non-restrictive practices and adapting evidence-based strategies.
- Innovative relational and trauma informed approaches of working with, rather than on, or for, autistic individuals.
- A strong focus on staff wellbeing for cultivating a mentally healthy school or college, and the impact of staff and young people on each other
- SPELL, a framework for demystifying, understanding and responding to autistic people's needs.
- You will be supported to co-deliver our curriculum with Experts by Experience and grow your skills as a trainer in your service.

What training is on offer?

The programme trains staff to Trainer level and supports them to train staff in their own settings. There are three components:

- four-day online training on the same day of the week, over four weeks.
- post-training, you will join a thriving community of practice with other proactive and engaged professionals.
- you will be supported to co-deliver the training with autistic Experts by Experience and embed our approach in your own setting.

How does this training benefit my residential special school or college, and my own practice?

- You qualify as a NATP Trainer and deliver the training to staff in your setting at least once a year. You join a network of professionals who are working to improve outcomes for diagnosed and undiagnosed autistic young people in residential special schools and colleges.
- You gain free ongoing support to embed the programme and network with other NATP trained Trainers via our vibrant [community of practice](#), training materials and specialist trainer days.
- You highlight, via the training, the importance of staff wellbeing and how this impacts the wellbeing of autistic children and young people.
- You become an agent of change for improved care, outcomes and satisfaction for all.

Book your place:

[Click here to choose your dates and book your free place.](#)



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