

Small changes to the environment can have a BIG impact on autistic pupils.

The Equality Act 2010 states that all schools must make 'reasonable adjustments' for autistic pupils that require them.

For example, autistic pupils may have different sensory experiences and small adjustments to the environment can reduce anxiety and improve their focus on learning tasks. You can take positive steps to ensure you're meeting the needs of autistic pupils by making minor changes to the classroom environment.

**The Autism Education Trust has created a checklist to help you to start thinking about these 'reasonable adjustments':**

1. Are your surfaces clear and cupboards closed?
2. Do you close the blind when the room is bright?
3. Do you close the window when there's noises outside?
4. Can you put stoppers on chair legs to minimise noise?
5. Are resources/boxes/drawers and cupboards clearly labelled?
6. Could your displays be less busy and less distracting?
7. Do you have a designated area for registration/group work/snack time?
8. Do you dress in clothes without bright colours or busy patterns?
9. Do you refer to visual timetables throughout the day?
10. Is there a quiet area either nearby or within the classroom where pupils can take breaks?



**Are there other areas where you can make further adjustments to support autistic pupils?**

More practical guidance can be found in the Additional Examples and Resources documents that accompany the Schools Standards and Competencies:

[Link](#) [View our Schools Standards Framework here](#)



[Link](#) [View our Schools Competency Framework here](#)

