



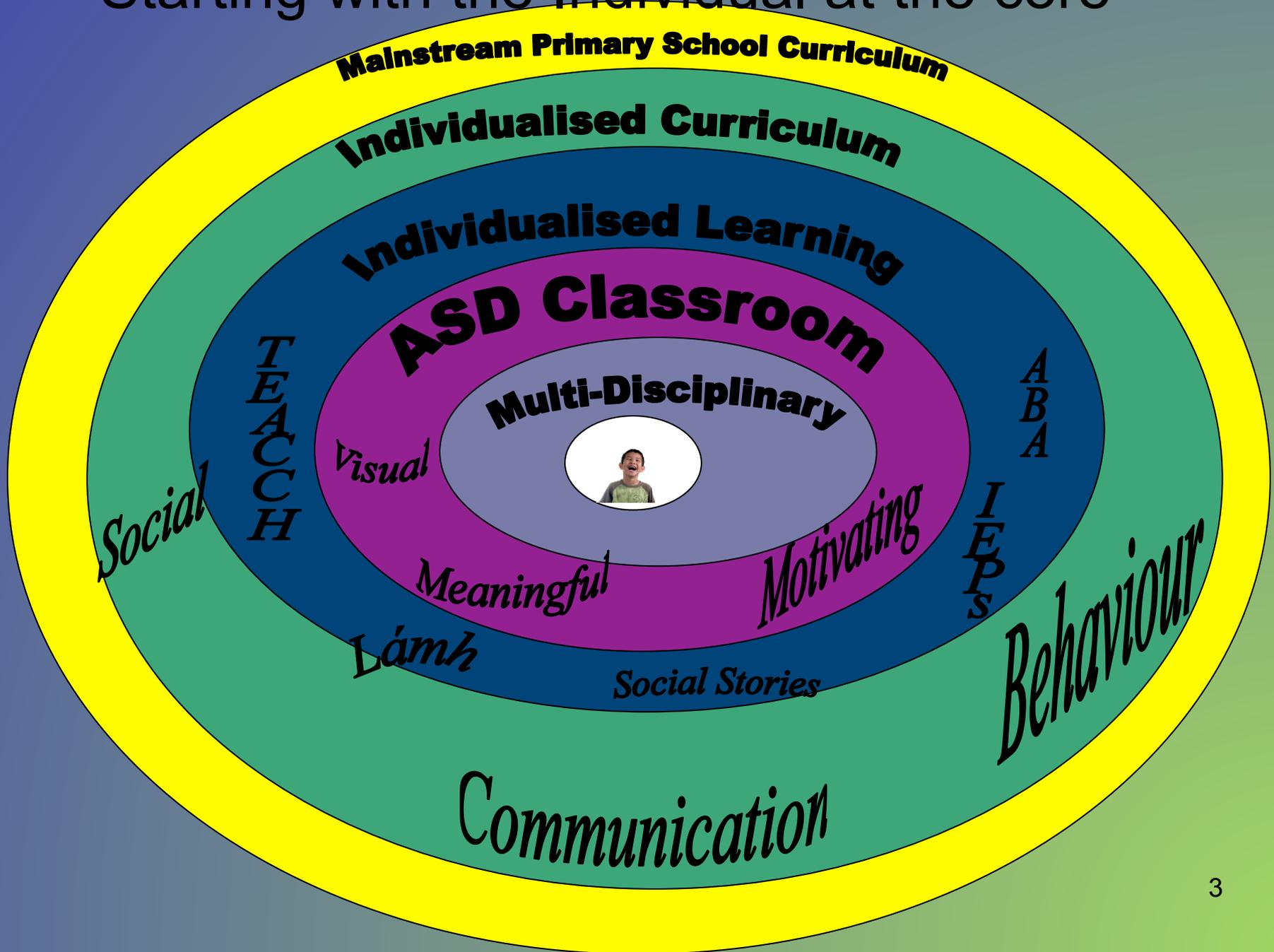
ASD School Prospectus

Our School



- St. Attracta's National School, Charlestown, Co. Mayo is a mainstream co-educational school under the patronage of the Catholic Bishop of Achonry.
- This caring, inclusive school has a high level of commitment to children with an autistic spectrum disorder and associated social and communication difficulties.
- The decision to provide specialised education for pupils with an Autism Spectrum Disorder was taken by the Board of Management of St. Attracta's National School in conjunction with the Principal and Staff in 2016.

Starting with the Individual at the core



Our Aims

- To offer an autism specific learning environment within a mainstream setting.
- To facilitate optimum inclusion as part of the whole school community with access to mainstream activities as appropriate to the individual pupil.
- To value the individuality of each pupil.
- Strive for each pupil to reach his/ her individual potential
- To create an environment that offers clarity, predictability and calm.
- Form partnerships with Parents, Relevant Western Care and relevant Health Service Executive Professionals for the holistic development of the child.



We are committed to

- Providing an individualised curriculum shaped by the pupil's individual interests, strengths and needs
- Providing teaching in both the mainstream classroom, in groups and on a one to one basis shaped by the individual pupil's needs, readiness and ability/IQ
- Promoting maximum independence for pupils in an atmosphere of respect, challenge, encouragement and praise.
- Increasing expressive and receptive language
- Working with other professionals including Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Behavioural Specialists, to promote the overall wellbeing of each pupil.



How will your child will be supported?

- Your child will be supported collectively by the ASD Class teachers, Mainstream Class teachers, Learning Support teachers and the Special Needs Assistants in St. Attracta's National School.
- School based services of Speech & Language therapists, Occupational Therapists, Autism Therapists and Psychologists will work in conjunction with the school to set out programmes of interventions for each of our students.
- Special Needs Assistants are allocated to the school and not to an individual child.

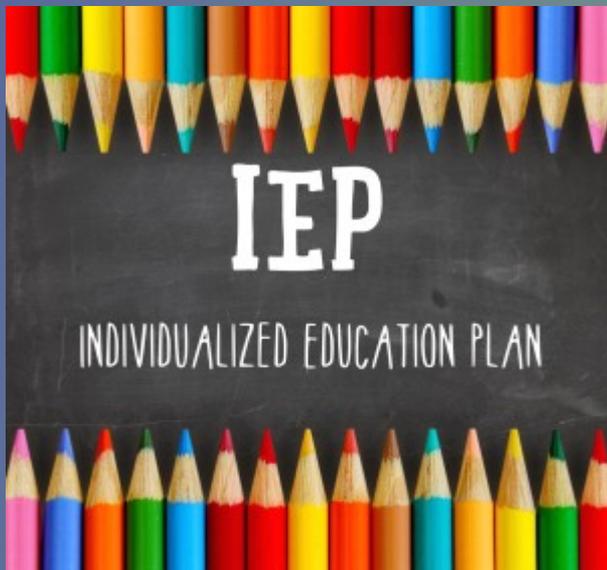
Individualised Teaching

- We consider every pupil as an individual with individual strengths and individual needs.
- We base our teaching on a variety of approaches, choosing the most effective for each individual.
- The variety of approaches we use include:
- ABA(a behavioural approach using task analysis and positive reinforcement)
- TEACCH (A visual, structured teaching approach)
- PECS(Picture exchange communication)
- Lámh (Augmentative sign language)
- Social Stories(describes a situation, skill, or concept in terms of relevant social cues, perspectives, and common responses)
- Sensory Integration (activities to promote healthy sensory processing)
- Reversed Integration
- Mainstream Integration



Individualised Learning

- Individual Education Plans are developed during term one after the Learning Support team have spent time observing and interacting with the child, have conducted baseline assessments, received all previous reports from the relevant health care professionals and have received hand over from the relevant professionals who have worked with the child e.g. Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Educational Psychologist, Autism Key Resource worker etc.
- Individual Education Plans are developed in partnership with parents and the relevant professionals.
- Parent Teacher meetings are held annually in November.
- Individual Education Plans are reviewed the following February.



Socialisation- Links with the Community

Our pupils attend a range of activities. These include timetable visits to :

- Swimming
- Shopping
- Aromatherapy /Reflexology
- Gymboree play sessions
- Lego play therapy



The School Day

- The school day generally works on the following timetable:
- Mornings : 9.25am to 12.30pm with snack at 10.45 am and a 10 minute break at 11.00 am
- Afternoon: 1.00pm to 2.05pm (Infant Day) and 1.00pm to 3.05pm(First Class Upwards)
- Pupils work on their individual timetables referred to in the classroom as schedules.
- Pupils will be based in the ASD classroom. They will associate this as their home classroom. Each pupil will have their own TEACCH work area.
- Pupils will be scheduled to work in the mainstream classroom for subjects and events that are appropriate to their social, communication and behavioural readiness and ability/ I.Q. score.
- Whole School assemblies take place in the GP room. This provides opportunities for classes to gather together, to celebrate achievements and to discuss and reflect on topical issues.

School Uniform

- Pupils wear black trousers/ skirt, grey v neck crest embroidered jumper and white shirt .
- Pupils wear black tracksuit bottoms, white polo shirt and crest embroidered grey sweatshirt on PE day.
- If the pupil has difficulty opening and closing buttons, he/she may wear their PE uniform.
- Crested School jumpers may be purchased from the School Office



Class Allocation

September 2016 saw the opening of:

- an Early Intervention Class for pre-school children
- a Junior ASD Class for Primary School children.

The pupil : teacher ratio in each class is 6:1 with two SNAs in each class also caring for the children's needs.

The pupils benefit from the support of outside agencies who visit the school regularly, providing O.T, Speech and Language and other therapies and services.

Contact us:

<http://stattractasns.ie>