



Outreach Offer

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Our Outreach Offer

Victoria Academies Trust is a multi-academy trust made up of ten primary schools throughout the West Midlands. We are passionate about providing the best education for all our pupils, regardless of background and providing opportunities to support them in readiness for their future life.

Having provided an Autism Resource Base in Sandwell for many years, we opened our first specialist free school in September 2022, Elm Tree Academy. Our programme of SEND outreach is developed by experts within our trust, and led by Beth Barnsley. Beth has extensive experience of SEND, specifically neurodiversity and has supported colleagues throughout the country, as well as contributing her expertise to both books and academic journals. Beth is currently Headteacher of Elm Tree Academy - see her biography on page 4.

We offer bespoke CPD opportunities for Teachers and Teaching Assistants, in-reach and out-reach bespoke support as well as consultancy.

All of our services are delivered by highly-trained, experienced practitioners within either our SEND school or the wider trust.

Beth Barnsley - Headteacher, Elm Tree Academy

Beth is a highly experienced member of the team at Victoria Academies Trust, working previously at KS3 and 4 alternative provisions before joining Devonshire Junior Academy where she was Assistant Headteacher and SENDCO.

Beth was successfully appointed headteacher at Elm Tree Primary Academy, which is a special school for autistic pupils that opened in September 2022.

She has a Master's degree in Education (inclusion and autism focus), has completed the NPQH and holds the NASENCO award now facilitates working in partnership with Best Practice Network.

In addition, Beth is qualified to lead training in Makaton, CPI and is deputy DSL in her current role. She has worked with Whole School SEND and been part of the development and implementation of the Whole School SEND, including the MAT peer review.

Beth has experience of delivering training and support nationally, has written chapters for SEND books and has had research published in the Good Autism Practice Journal (GAP).



Short courses and specific training

Makaton Levels 1-3

Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression

Level 1- 1 day

Level 2- 1 day

Level 3 can be delivered if required.

Suitable for: Teachers and Teaching Assistants

Costing: Please see pricing structure on page 9

Timings: Courses will run from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Introduction to the Low Arousal approach and ethos.

The Low Arousal approach emphasises a range of strategies that focus on the reduction of stress, fear and frustration and seeks to prevent dysregulation and crisis situations. The low arousal approach seeks to understand the role of the 'situation' by identifying triggers and using low intensity strategies and solutions to support distressed individuals.

Suitable for: Teachers and Teaching Assistants

Costing: Please see pricing structure on page 9

Timings: ½ day or bespoke to need

An introduction to Emotion Coaching

Emotion Coaching is based on the principle that nurturing and emotionally supportive relationships promote emotional understanding and development. Emotion Coaching uses moments of heightened emotion to support the child to recognise, identify and effectively respond to big feelings. Through empathetic engagement, the child's emotional state is verbally acknowledged and validated, promoting a sense of security and feeling 'felt'. This activates changes in the child's neurological system and allows the child to regulate, physiologically and psychologically.

Suitable for: Teachers and Teaching Assistants

Costing: Please see pricing structure on page 9

Timings: ½ day or bespoke to need

An introduction to the Autistic experience

What does being autistic mean?

How do autistic people experience the world differently?

What can schools do to ensure autistic pupils can thrive?

Suitable for: Teachers and Teaching Assistants

Costing: Please see pricing structure on page 9

Timings: ½ day or bespoke to need

An introduction to Neuroaffirming practice

What does neurodiversity mean?

What is a neuroaffirming approach and why is it important in education?

Suitable for: Teachers and Teaching Assistants

Costing: Please see pricing structure on page 9

Timings: ½ day or bespoke to need

Introduction to ADHD:

What is ADHD? Dispelling myths and stereotypes and an over view of strategies and approaches that may be useful.

Suitable for: Teachers and Teaching Assistants

Costing: Please see pricing structure on page 9

Timings: ½ day or bespoke to need

An introduction to Specific Learning Difficulties:

An over view of different types of specific learning difficulty and strategies and approaches to remove barriers.

Suitable for: Teachers and Teaching Assistants

Costing: Please see pricing structure on page 9

Timings: ½ day or bespoke to need

All of our courses can be provided upon request. To make an initial enquiry please complete a Course Enquiry form, which is available on Victoria Academies Trust.

Introduction to Elm Tree

Elm Tree Academy is a primary only special school for autistic children with additional learning needs. We currently are currently reception to year 5.

This session is designed to offer schools and insight into the provision we offer at Elm Tree Academy. It will include a discussion about our practices, ethos and a brief tour of the school where possible.

We are very happy to work with other schools and professionals and welcome the opportunity to share our practices. We keep group sizes small so that we can make these discussions as bespoke as possible.

We ask for a small contribution of £20 per person to cover release costs.

SENCO support and coaching

We are very aware how lonely the SENCO role can be at times and how the constraints of funding and increasing support needs can impact wellbeing.

We can offer a series of coaching and support sessions to assist you in problem solving and/or supervision to support wellbeing. For example, this may be

1 session per half term

1 session per term

This can be a bespoke coaching session to discuss a specific issue you would like to address or more of a general conversation about your role in school and the challenges you face.

Bespoke school support

Our bespoke outreach support offer can be tailored to the specific needs and requirements of your setting.

Our aims:

- To support high quality provision for pupils with special educational needs.
- To develop the skills and knowledge of colleagues who work with pupils with special educational needs.
- To remove barriers for pupils with special educational needs so that they reach their full potential.

To request support:

- Identify your priorities
- Complete the [referral form](#) on Victoria Academies Trust website including all relevant information

Upon receipt of a referral form Victoria Academies Trust will:

- Acknowledge receipt with an email as soon as possible.
- Arrange an initial telephone call/ TEAMS call to establish the initial requirements/ needs within 2 weeks of referral date.
- Arrange an in-person consultation with the most appropriate member(s) of our Team
- Provide a written support offer within 2 weeks of the consultation, which will identify time scales and review dates.
- Identify a key/link person within our SEND team, who will oversee the support plan and regularly 'check in' to ensure support is having impact.
- Hold a final review meeting on completion of the support offer, including next steps, if appropriate.
- Signpost the full list of courses available on Victoria Academies Trust website.
- Ensure all support and training is bespoke and tailored to the needs of the referring school.

Referring schools will:

- Complete all forms in full to avoid any unnecessary delays.
- Ensure that appropriate staff (SENDCOs/Class Teachers/ Support Staff) are available for meetings/ training and follow up advice, implementing strategies without delays.
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- Update Victoria Academies Trust should any issues or change of circumstances arise and work with us to resolve them.

Upon completion of support:

Schools will be expected to complete an evaluation form so that our service can be continually improved.

Complaints Procedure:

If at any point you are unhappy with the service you receive from our SEND team and you are unable to discuss/ resolve this directly with the team, please contact Hayley.Mapp@victrust.org

GDPR Compliance:

In line with GDPR requirements, a data sharing agreement will be sent to schools to be signed and returned with the Service Level Agreement.

Our GDPR policies can be found on Victoria Academies Trust website

Cancellation:

All courses and support will be charged at 50% cost if cancelled within 48 hours. If less than 48 hours full course cost will be charged.

Pricing Structure:

Short courses and specific training:

Makaton:

Level 1/2/3 course:

Price per delegate: £75

Group price (12 delegates): £720

Introduction to the Low Arousal approach and ethos:

Group price (12 delegates): £350

Additional Delegates: £25

Hour session: £175

An introduction to Emotion Coaching:

Group price (12 delegates): £350

Additional Delegates: £25

Hour session: £175

An introduction to the Autistic experience:

Group price (12 delegates): £350

Additional Delegates: £25

Hour session: £175

An introduction to Neuroaffirming practice:

Group price (12 delegates): £350

Additional Delegates: £25

Hour session: £175

Bespoke school support:

To be agreed following consultation.

As a guide: daily rate - £350; half day - £200

Six-day bundle - £1800

Partner school discount:

20% discount will be applied to all bookings from partner schools.