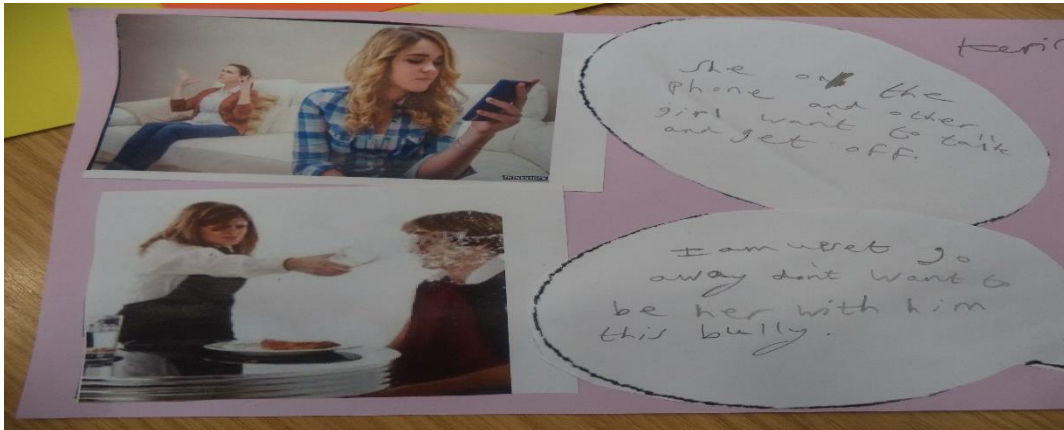


Socialeyes

A social skills training package for Drumbeat teenagers

**Delivered by Kremena Lee, Outreach Teacher, and
Kathryn Stevenson, Clinical Psychologist**

What is Socialeyes?



Socialeyes is a learning resource developed by the National Autistic Society with, and for, people on the autism spectrum. It is used to help adolescents and adults to explore the social world and become more confident in social situations.

Why do we do it?



Many young people on the autistic spectrum can at times be challenged by the social world and want to learn more about how the social world works. The Socialeyes package provides a respectful way to support our young people with these challenges. It does not ask learners to change 'inappropriate' social behaviour, or to acquire social skills by copying the 'typical' behaviour of others. Instead, Socialeyes helps learners to make an informed choice and gives them the option of learning social interaction skills or alternative social strategies.



How do we do it?

Socialeyes runs weekly for Year 11 and Year 14 students who are able to participate in group discussions. It is class based, and facilitated by the school psychologist and / or Outreach specially trained teachers.

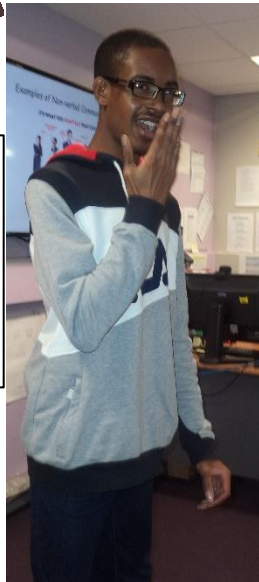
Socialeyes looks at eight social skills that can really help us to start interacting successfully with others. These skills are starting a conversation, eye contact, personal space, taking turns in a conversation, keeping on topic, talking about interests, sensitive topics and ending a conversation. Each of the eight social interaction skills are looked at separately and in detail using the Socialeyes five-step process: What? Why? How? When? Try! In addition, we help our students to explore what we mean by communication and to develop an understanding of both verbal and nonverbal communication strategies.

The group uses a mixture of discussion, games and activities, role play and videos to explore the different social skills.

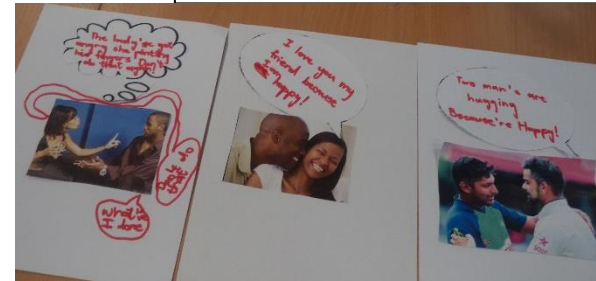
Socialeyes in action



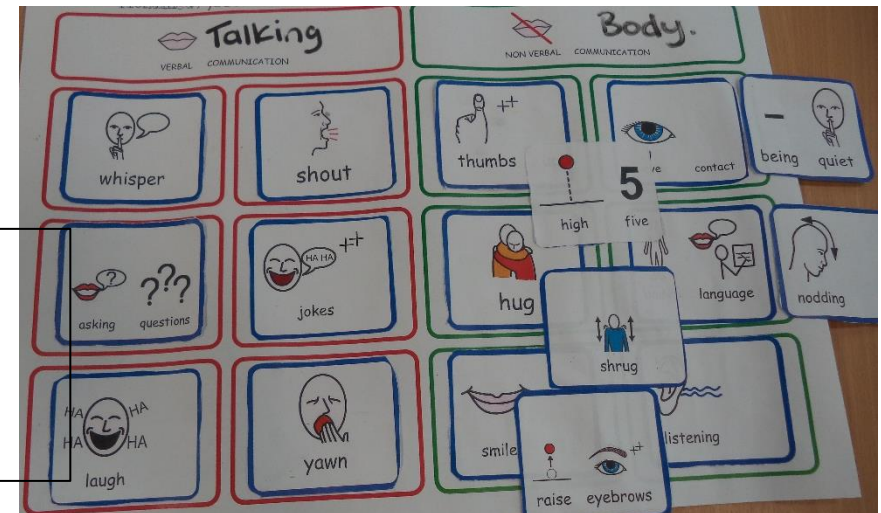
Showing different nonverbal communication for others to guess



Working out what people are thinking and saying by their body language

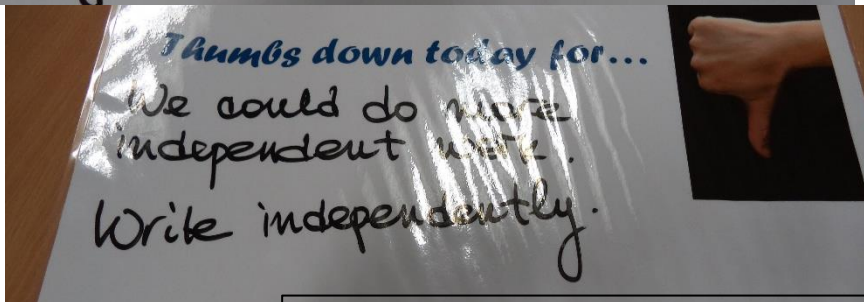
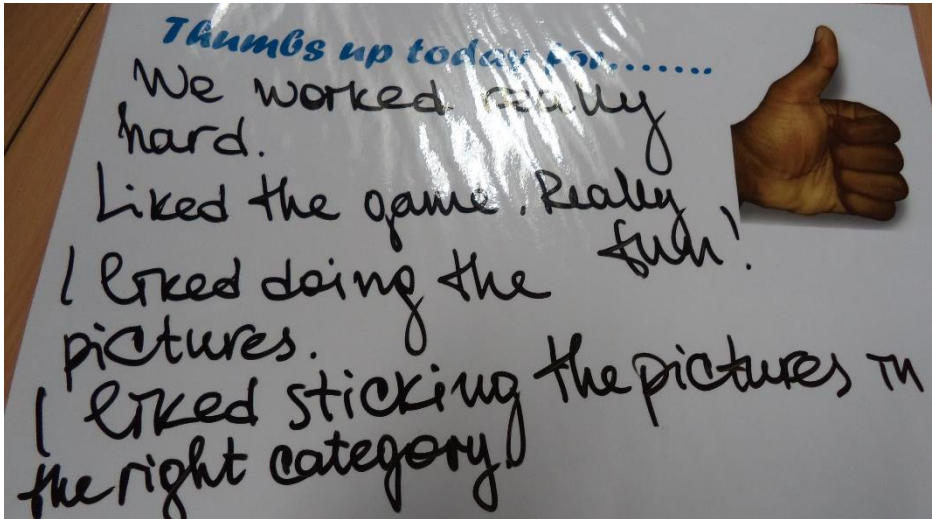


Distinguishing between verbal and non verbal communication



Feedback

Socialeyes is a new initiative, introduced to the school this September. However, feedback from students and staff involved has so far been overall positive:



Comments from one session

Teacher's comments so far:

'Topics covered in social eyes are very appropriate and well suited to the students and as result they are engaged in the lesson. Students respond well to the structure of the lesson which includes a warm up at the start, discussion, group work and feedback. I feel the lesson are pitched at the right level and students are learning key social skills that they can take with them when they leave in July 2016' (Class teacher).

'It gets them open to conversation and makes them think about other people views' (Class T.A.)