

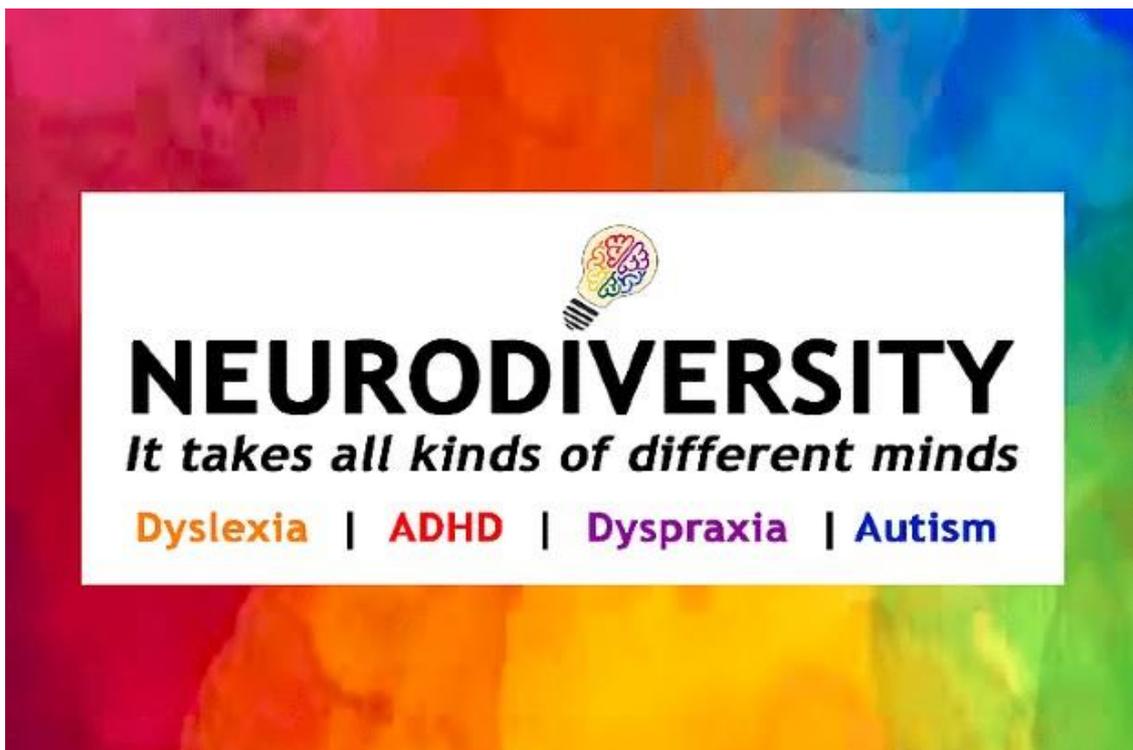
# Knowsley Schools Celebration of Neurodiversity 2022 Guide

Alt Bridge School

Knowsley Central School

Willow Tree Primary School

Knowsley Lane Primary School



We are pleased to welcome you to an exhibition of Neurodiversity Celebration. Our exhibition brings together artwork, visual displays and a film piece to highlight the importance of celebrating neurodiversity.

# The Umbrella Project

Originally, the Umbrella Project started in Liverpool with the help of local primary school pupils as 200 brightly coloured umbrellas were suspended over a busy city centre street.



The goal behind this initiative was to raise awareness and understanding, encouraging discussion around Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism.

Devised and curated by Liverpool-based ADHD Foundation, which this year celebrated its tenth anniversary as a charity, the Umbrella Project transformed Church Alley (leading up to the

Bluecoat) into a canopy of colour.

The individual umbrellas were also personally signed by children from St Oswald's and schools across Merseyside, many of whom have ADHD, Autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions.

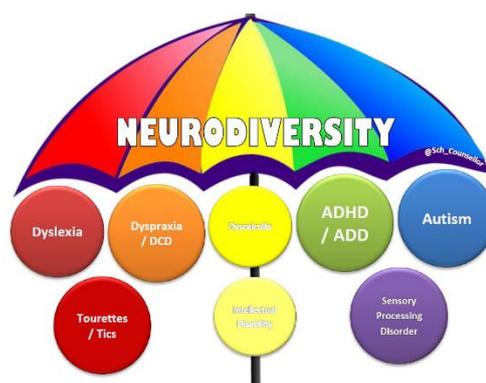
Explaining the idea behind the Umbrella Project, Dr Tony Lloyd, chief executive of ADHD Foundation, said: "we want to highlight that fact and challenge the stigma of what can be 'invisible' disabilities. The Umbrella Project is about reminding adults - be it parents, teachers or potential employees - that young people with ADHD and other conditions possess many gifts, talents and skills to offer their communities.

**Their condition is not a disabler, but an enabler, a superpower!"**

The Neurodiversity Umbrella Project is an uplifting visual representation of all the different minds we have here in the UK. Since the original display, schools, businesses and organisations have been able to engage in the project and purchase umbrellas to create displays in their own settings. By doing so, they demonstrate their commitment to celebrating neurodiversity!

Every Umbrella Project installation helps to raise awareness and understanding of neurodiversity. Thousands of colourful umbrellas are strung together over public spaces, in

schools, and in company buildings around the nation. Each display is designed to represent the one in five of us who have a neurodevelopmental condition, such as ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia or Tourette's syndrome. These conditions fall under the umbrella term of neurodiversity.



## The Neurodiversity Film

Knowsley students, their parents/carers and school staff members, have come together to contribute to a film about Neurodiversity. The

film aims to challenge some of the misconceptions that may exist about neurodiversity and remind all members of society

about the value of inclusion, diversity and equality.

The film includes the views of children and young people from both specialist and mainstream schools, their parents/carers and members of staff within school settings. There have

been several contributors to the film connected with Alt Bridge, Knowsley Central, Willow Tree Primary and Knowsley Lane Primary and also Prescott School. The film has been produced by Keyhole Productions.

## Art exhibition

As part of the Neurodiversity celebration event we have been looking at and celebrating the work of neuro diverse artists.

As a collaborative project we have focused on the incredible Stephen Wiltshire. He is a British artist known for his detailed cityscape art.



When Stephen was young, he didn't communicate through speech and he preferred to

communicate with the world through his drawings. Stephen



was diagnosed with autism when he was three. He is an amazing

artist with an astonishing memory that allows him to produce accurate detailed drawings. And that this gift enabled him to overcome his disability and inspire others

with his incredible talent. Throughout the exhibition you will have to opportunity to see work created by pupils across our cluster family of schools. Pupils have worked hard to produce their own cityscapes that are inspired by Stephen.

As part of the art exhibition you will see bursts of colour through the beautiful multi-

coloured flags and large banners that pupils have created to represent the fact that no brain is the same. To celebrate and recognise that everyone's brain works differently and to remind us that no matter what our difference and challenges, everyone has their own strengths and talents.

## Forest School Experiences

In 2022, Alt Bridge have been delighted to welcome pupils from Knowsley Lane Primary School, Knowsley Central and Willow Tree Primary school onto our site for Forest School experiences and sports activities throughout March. The visits were a great success and enjoyed by all students.

Our post-16 students thoroughly enjoyed supporting visiting pupils throughout the visits and helping to prepare our forest school activities.

The activities gave everyone the opportunities to work together in teams, access outdoor learning and enjoy some nature study.



Photographs from the experiences are viewable on our large hall board on the rolling presentation.

***The students and staff from Alt Bridge School would like to thank our amazing school partners Knowsley Lane, Willow Tree and Knowsley Central primaries. Thanks also to all of our guests for coming along today to our special event. We hope you enjoy our exhibition!***