



managing Autism Spectrum Condition ourselves together

Supporting Local Families

A message from the Directors

August 2020

mASCot prides itself on being an inclusive family, which celebrates diversity. The Black Lives Matter movement has caused us to think about our policies and practices around racism, and to consider how we might best support our Black, Asian, and other ethnic minority family members.

We support Black Lives Matter as a movement, and we want to become an anti-racist organisation, and to acknowledge the additional difficulties faced by our Black, Asian, and other ethnic minority families.

Some examples:

- ✚ Black and other minority ethnic families face extra hurdles in seeking a diagnosis of autism - with professionals less inclined to recognise social communication difficulties as indicating autism in non-white children (Berger et al 2009)
- ✚ Within the education system, in addition to the high rates of school exclusions experienced by all SEND children, boys from Black Caribbean or Irish traveller backgrounds face far higher rates of school exclusion than their white peers (Department of education 2017)
- ✚ In young adults, those from Black and other minority ethnic backgrounds are significantly more likely to experience unemployment (office for national statistics, 2019), this being on top of the high unemployment rates amongst autistic adults.

We recognise a need to take action.

As a team of directors, we are actively seeking to increase our understanding of systemic racism and how we can be effective allies to our Black, Asian and other ethnic minority members. We are watching videos, listening to podcasts, reading blogs, and undertaking the work set out in “Me and White Supremacy” (Layla Saad 2020).

There will soon be a new subgroup for our Black and other minority ethnic families – CULTURE Inc. A group which hopes to inspire and empower, a safe space to share information and build a network amongst our varying cultures, communities, and backgrounds.

To create a positive difference amongst all individual's, diversity is key.

We will seek to include more Black, Asian, and other ethnic minority voices in our programme of talks and activities.

Most importantly, we want to listen to you, our wonderful members.

If you have ideas for projects or speakers or groups, we will support you, please do get in touch.

mASCot Directors

