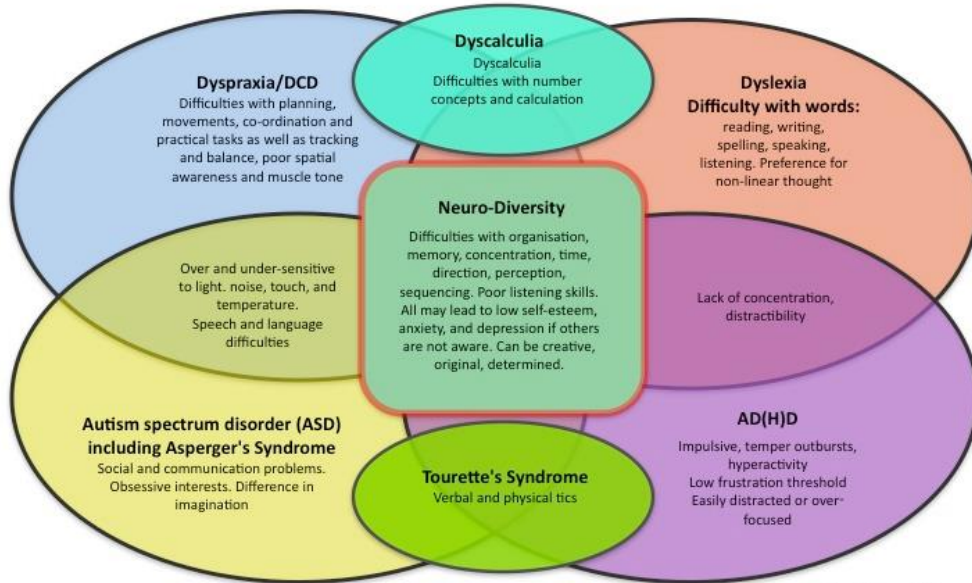


The Make-up of Neuro-Diversity

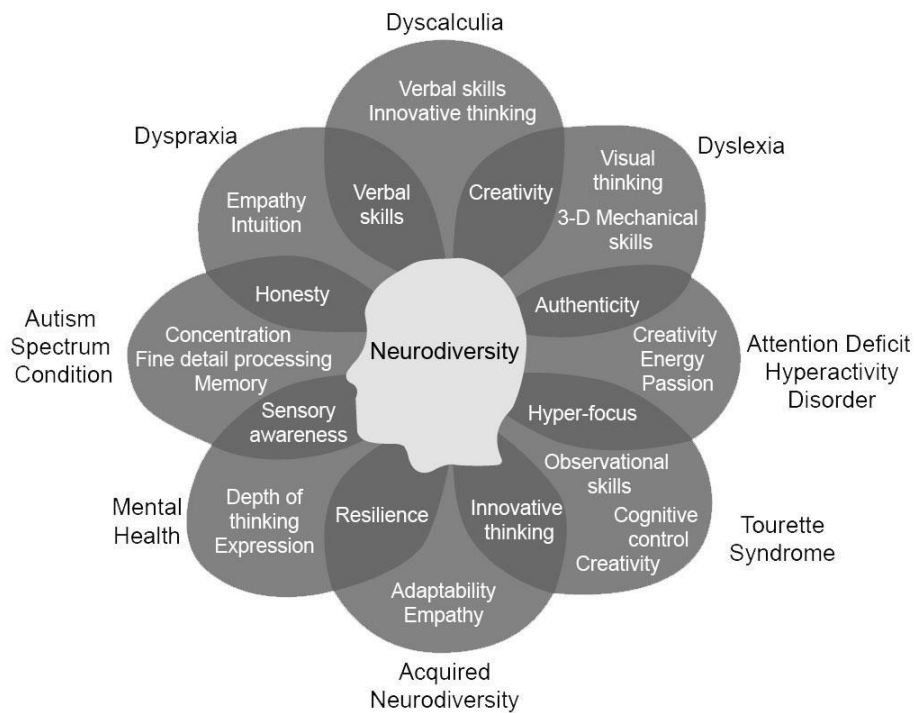
This is a document for discussion, concentrating mainly on the difficulties of those with neuro-diversity. It must however be pointed out that many such people are excellent at maths, co-ordination, reading etc. We are people of extremes.



Created by Mary Colley

The Overlapping Skills and Strengths of Neurodiversity

Credit: Created by Nancy Doyle, based on work by Mary Colley.



Neurodiversity Week

Neurodiversity is a term to describe differences in the brain, where thought patterns and behaviours fall outside of what society considers 'normal' or neurotypical. Neurodiversity recognises that neurological differences like autism, ADHD, and dyslexia are variations within the human population rather than disorders that need to be cured. It is thought that around 20% of people are neurodiverse. Living in a world designed for a neurotypical mind can be a challenge for those who think differently. Typically, the juxtaposition of formal structure and unpredictability within a school or work environment can be overwhelming. However, in the right environment, job role or project, diversity of the mind can be a great asset, and some of the best thinkers in society are neurodiverse.

Neurodivergent individuals thrive in jobs and environments that play to their cognitive strengths and accommodate their unique needs. Andy Warhol, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Albert Einstein are all individuals believed to have been neurodiverse. Warhol was known for his unique artistic vision and unconventional approach to art. At the same time, Mozart's musical genius was recognised from a very young age, and Einstein revolutionised our understanding of the universe with his theories of relativity. Similarly, many women have used their unique cognitive strengths to achieve great success in their respective fields. For example, writer and activist Temple Grandin, who is autistic, significantly contributed to animal behaviour and autism advocacy. Greta Thunberg, diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, is a well-known environmental activist who has inspired millions worldwide. Poet Emily Dickinson, believed to have had a social anxiety disorder, is renowned for her innovative and unconventional writing style. These individuals and many others like them demonstrate that neurodivergence can be a source of creativity and innovation and that embracing differences can lead to great success.

What is happening at Clifton High?

This week, local author Tracey Lear visited Reception – Year 4 to share her book: *Eli's Story: What Makes Me, Me!* Thank you to Liz Elder from our Enhanced Learning Department for organising this inspiring and engaging visit.

[Eli's Story](#)



After half term, as part of autism awareness, pupils will have assemblies to help them learn how to interact supportively with their peers and develop a deeper appreciation for differences in human cognition and behaviour. Parents can support their children's participation in autism awareness by discussing the importance of empathy, respect, and inclusion at home, and by encouraging their children to ask questions and seek out resources for learning more about autism and other forms of neurodivergence.

At our school, creating an inclusive space for all pupils, including those who are neurodivergent, is a top priority. We are committed to ensuring that our learning environment is tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual. To achieve this, we welcome questions and ideas from parents and encourage open communication between parents, students, and staff.