

How to support

fans with **AUTISM**

(including Asperger Syndrome)

Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition. This means there are differences in the way the brain processes information. Autism is often invisible and so the following points should be considered when interacting with any of our fans.

Fans with **AUTISM** may:

- Have communication difficulties
- Be anxious or confused
- Take longer to process instructions or demands
- Behave in a manner that could appear alarming
- Be vulnerable and need support

What can you do to **HELP?**

- Suspend your judgement. offer assistance.
- If a person discloses their condition. ask how best you can help them. Written instructions can help.
- Allow the person time to process their surroundings. your questions and their responses. Silence can be good!
- You should be clear when asking for information or questioning someone. Do not assume that the person will pick up on your non-verbal communication or the underlying message if it is peppered with small talk or niceties.
- Sometimes people will ask or complain about what may seem an insignificant point. These should still be listened and responded to.
- Body & bag searches – tell people what you are going to do and why e.g “I need to search you so I am going to touch your arms. torso and legs. Tell me if you need me to stop.”

We are proud supporters of the Autism Friendly Football Campaign run by Autism Wessex and backed by Harry Redknapp.



For further information about Autism Spectrum Conditions:

www.autismwessex.org.uk | www.autism.org.uk