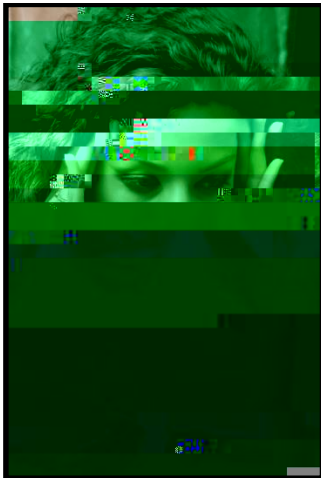




# Supporting friends with Autism or Asperger syndrome



# What is Asperger syndrome?

Asperger syndrome (AS) is a form of Autism which predominantly affects communication and social interaction.

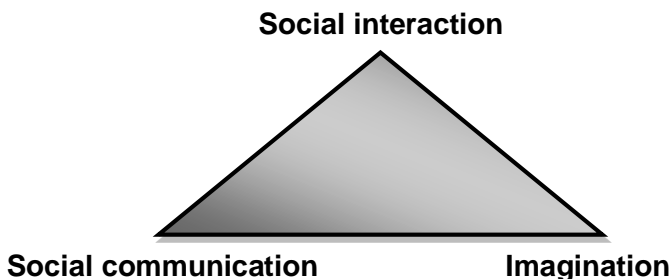
Yet whilst many people with autism may have learning problems and poor basic verbal communication skills those with AS are generally more fluent and are of average or above average intelligence. This enables the majority of adults with AS to progress through mainstream education and into further or higher education.

It is in Higher Education that further difficulties can come to light and it is therefore imperative that all their friends have a broad awareness of AS so you can offer useful support quickly and effectively, as guided by the Disability Support team.

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## The 3 key areas of difficulty – known as the TRIAD OF IMPAIRMENTS





*As friends you can*

*observe conversation rules – situations without ongoing  
patience*

*inform them that they've said enough on a subject that's  
becoming abused or give them a physical cue*

*be patient for them to respond or take a precise  
answer*

*avoid threats and sarcasms*