



Your legacy
A lifetime of care
and support



Your legacy will transform and illuminate lives for so many years to come

Our Chief Executive, Caroline Stevens, tells us how leaving a gift in your Will can help autistic people live wonderful, happy lives, and reach their full potential.

"Thank you for considering this very special gift. By leaving a gift to the National Autistic Society in your Will, you will transform the lives of autistic people and their families in the future. Your legacy will help us deliver on our vision to create a society that works for autistic people.

"I became a member of the National Autistic Society over 20 years ago when the charity helped me to get a diagnosis for my son. I need society to work better for autistic people - my son's future depends on it."



Leading the way for autism acceptance

In 1962, a group of parents with autistic children set up what would go on to become the National Autistic Society. They pioneered our fight for autistic people's rights. At the time, there was no provision for autistic children, who were often diagnosed with childhood schizophrenia and sent to institutions.

Together we can shape the future for autistic people

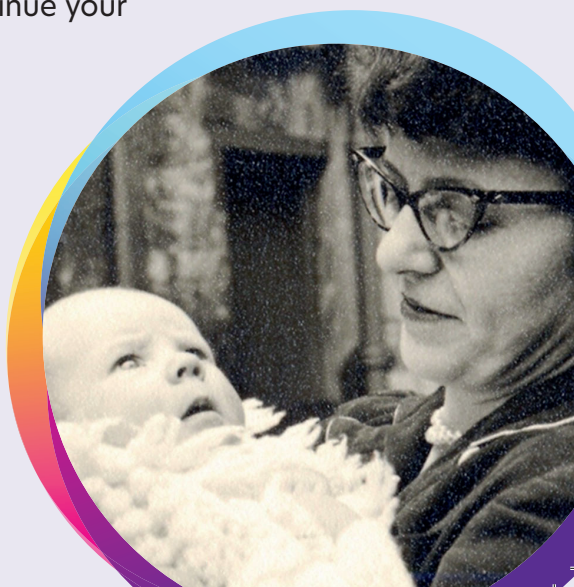
Today, the National Autistic Society is the UK's leading charity for autistic people. We are working towards a fairer society, where nobody on the autism spectrum must face the future alone. Where specialist support and advice is available for those who need it most.

Once you have looked after your loved ones, please consider remembering the National Autistic Society with a gift in your Will. This special gift costs nothing during your lifetime, but could provide a lifetime of support for autistic people. In this way, we hope you will continue your journey with us.

"Attitudes towards autism and autistic people have definitely improved, thanks to the work of people like my mother and her fellow founders."

Miles Allison

On how attitudes towards autism have changed



A lifetime of support for Mike

At three years old, Mike was referred to Dr Michael Rutter, a pioneering child psychologist. Dr Rutter diagnosed Mike with autism and recommended contacting the National Autistic Society. Fiona and David, Mike's parents, reached out to the National Autistic Society in 1970. This was the start of lifelong support for Mike.

In 1973, Mike started at the Sybil Elgar School, which he attended until the age of 19. Here Fiona and David began to see a real change in Mike. The school's dedicated therapists helped him develop vital skills to ensure he reached his potential.

In 1986, Mike moved to Somerset Court. This was the first specialist care centre set up by the National Autistic Society, where Mike developed his social skills and could live contentedly amongst his fellow residents.

In 1999 he moved to the National Autistic Society's Cherry Trees, where he still lives today. Mike is a mathematical savant, taking seconds to multiply six or seven-digit numbers, and factorise huge prime numbers. He and his mother Fiona have walked the whole of the South West Coast Path, from Minehead to Poole. He now spends his time doing what he enjoys most - long walks with map reading, puzzles and practising maths.

“We are so thankful for everything the National Autistic Society has done for us, from Mike’s childhood to the present day. The gift I am leaving in my Will is so that other autistic people like Mike can benefit from the charity’s expertise and care.”

Fiona, mother of Mike



Our impact

in 2023-24



Over a **million** people visited our website for vital advice or guidance. All together, they looked at our advice pages over four million times.

Over
100,000

professionals across education, health and social care improved their knowledge and practice by getting training from our expert Autism Know How team and our partners, the Autism Education Trust. Almost 1,000 people joined our annual conference to develop their insight.



Almost
25,000

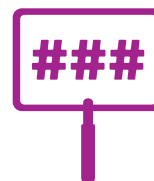
campaigners took action with us to say it's

#TimeToAct,

calling out delays to crucial reforms to the *Mental Health Act* in England and Wales, and to ask their MP to find out more about our

#LetEveryAutisticChildLearn

campaign to fix the education system for autistic children.



Your legacy gift means you will be there for autistic people and their families, not just now, but in the future.

Empowerment of autistic people to live their lives and have their unique contributions valued.

Seamless journeys from diagnosis to support for autistic people.

Unconditionally inclusive design of public spaces and services.

Autistic people to live in **a world free from discrimination.**

A society that works for autistic people.



A lifeline for Robyn's family

I'm Robyn and this is my husband Matt, and my three sons, Elliot, Wyatt and Ewan. Elliot and Wyatt are both autistic. We have faced countless anxieties and worries over the years. But the National Autistic Society has always been on our side.

When the school challenged Elliot's autism diagnosis, we contacted the National Autistic Society for advice. This gave us the courage to make a complaint to the school, who have since apologised.

Whenever we need guidance or information, we can find it all on the National Autistic Society's website. From the rights of autistic children, to reasonable adjustments. Help is always there.

Our local branch has given our family experiences we wouldn't normally have had. They helped with Wyatt's Education, Health and Care Plan application. Above all, the branch has been a safe space and a shoulder to cry on.

"I don't know where we'd be without the National Autistic Society. They have been an absolute lifeline. Knowing there are people who understand is so important."

Robyn, mother of Elliot, Wyatt and Ewan



Your questions answered



What type of gift could I leave in my Will?

There are three main types of gift:

Share of your estate

Also called a residuary gift. After any debts and other gifts are paid from your estate, you can leave the National Autistic Society all or a percentage of what's left. This ensures your loved ones are looked after first. And it keeps pace with inflation, preserving the gift's value over time.

Fixed sum

Also called a pecuniary gift. You can leave a fixed amount of money of any value to us. You could also index link this gift to inflation to maintain its value over time.

Specific gift

You can choose to leave a named item such as a piece of jewellery, an antique, or even a property to the National Autistic Society.

Should I let the National Autistic Society know if I leave a gift?

We would be delighted to know that you have decided to leave us a gift in your Will. This gives us the opportunity to thank you properly, and make plans for the future. But we understand your Will is a personal, sensitive document and you may not wish to share this information.

Can a gift to a charity help me pay less tax?

Any gift in your Will to a registered charity is exempt from Inheritance Tax. In addition, if you leave 10% or more of your estate to charity, the Inheritance Tax rate at which you are taxed could reduce from 40% to 36%. For more information visit gov.uk/inheritance-tax

I have a dependant who is autistic, how can I provide for them in my Will?

As an inheritance could impact benefit entitlement and care, you could consider including a discretionary trust in your Will. If you need advice on this, you can book a free 30-minute appointment with a qualified solicitor from our Wills and Trusts Phone Service.

For more information or to book, visit autism.org.uk/willsandtrusts or phone our Supporter Care team on 0808 800 1050.

How do I include the National Autistic Society in my Will?

You will need to include our full name, address and registered charity number:

The National Autistic Society
2nd Floor, Weston House,
42 Curtain Road,
London, EC2A 3NH

Registered charity number:
269425 (England and Wales)
SC039427 (Scotland)

We recommend working with a solicitor to write or update your Will. This is to help make sure your wishes are met and to avoid any errors.

You do not need a large estate to leave us a gift in your Will. All gifts, regardless of their size, will help us plan for the future and deliver our vital work.

Does the National Autistic Society have a Free Wills offer?

Yes, we have a **Free Wills offer** for our valued supporters to use. We can refer you to the **National Free Wills Network**, who will provide you with a choice of local solicitors to help you write your Will, completely free of charge. There is no obligation to include the National Autistic Society in your Will when using this service, although of course we would be very grateful if that is something you would like to do. **For further information, please email our Legacy Team at legacyteam@nas.org.uk or phone our Supporter Care team on 0808 800 1050.**

“I am so, so grateful for everything the National Autistic Society has done for Mike. That’s why I’m leaving a legacy to help make sure lifelong support continues for autistic people and their families.”

Fiona, mother of Mike



Find out more about Gifts in Wills



autism.org.uk/legacy



legacyteam@nas.org.uk



0808 800 1050