



# Reasonable Adjustments in School



A resource to support the webinar delivered  
by Nicola Reekie & Amanda Hind

September 2023 for  
The PDA Space Portal  
([www.thepdaspacespace.com](http://www.thepdaspacespace.com))

Created by Helen Edgar



# Everyone Deserves an Education

Everyone wants their child to be happy and succeed in school. However, for many children, if they are neurodivergent, they may find that school is a challenging environment. They may need some 'reasonable adjustments' to reach their potential.

As parents/carers, you know your children best. A collaborative approach with the school and your child will help them achieve their best outcomes. The school may ask what '**reasonable adjustments**' you want. That can be hard to answer if you don't know the available options. This guide will provide some ideas to support those conversations.

You may be able to apply for an Education Health Care Plan (**EHCP**), or Additional Learning Needs (**ALN** in Wales); both are needs-based assessments to help provide further support. IPSEA has further information about this ([www.ipsea.org.uk](http://www.ipsea.org.uk)).

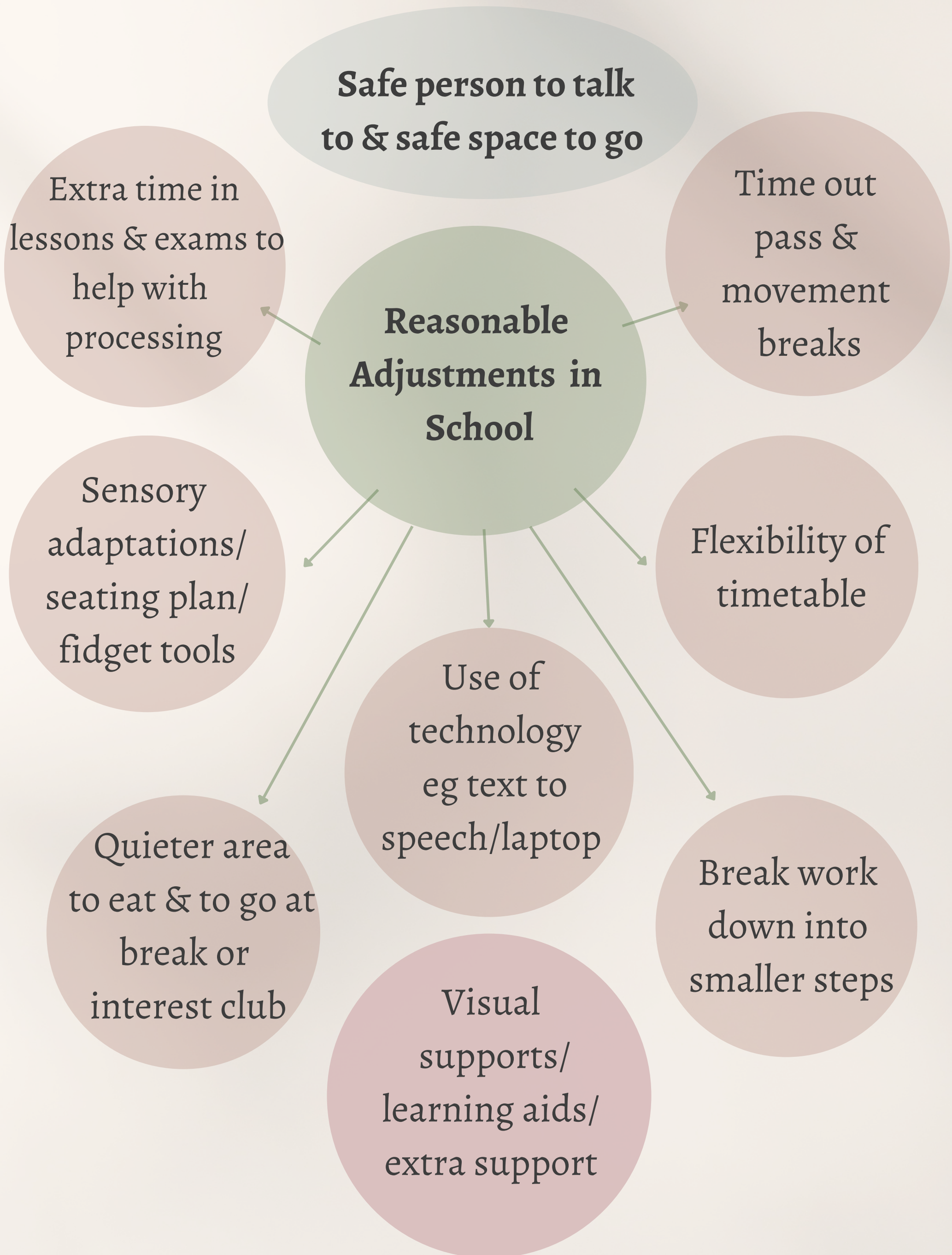
Everyone deserves an education, The Equality Act 2010 states:

" The Act makes it unlawful for the responsible body of a school to discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil:  
In relation to admissions,  
in the way, it provides education for pupils,  
in the way it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility or service, or  
by excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment. "

(The Equality Act 2010 and Schools, DFE, 2014)



# What Are Reasonable Adjustments ?



# Strengths and Difficulties

It is important to talk to your young person as openly as possible. You could work through their school day with them and talk about what is working well and what they find difficult. You will be better positioned to discuss a plan with school staff.

Talking and discussing school is often easier said than done; it may be easier to do this when in the car on a drive, out shopping or whilst they are playing so it feels less demanding and more manageable.

It could help to get a copy of their timetable in advance so they can highlight the parts that are going well and not so well. For younger children they may prefer to draw their ideal school day, then you can compare it to what actually happens and see where they may be struggling. Some of their difficulties may happen before the bell rings or during break or dinner.

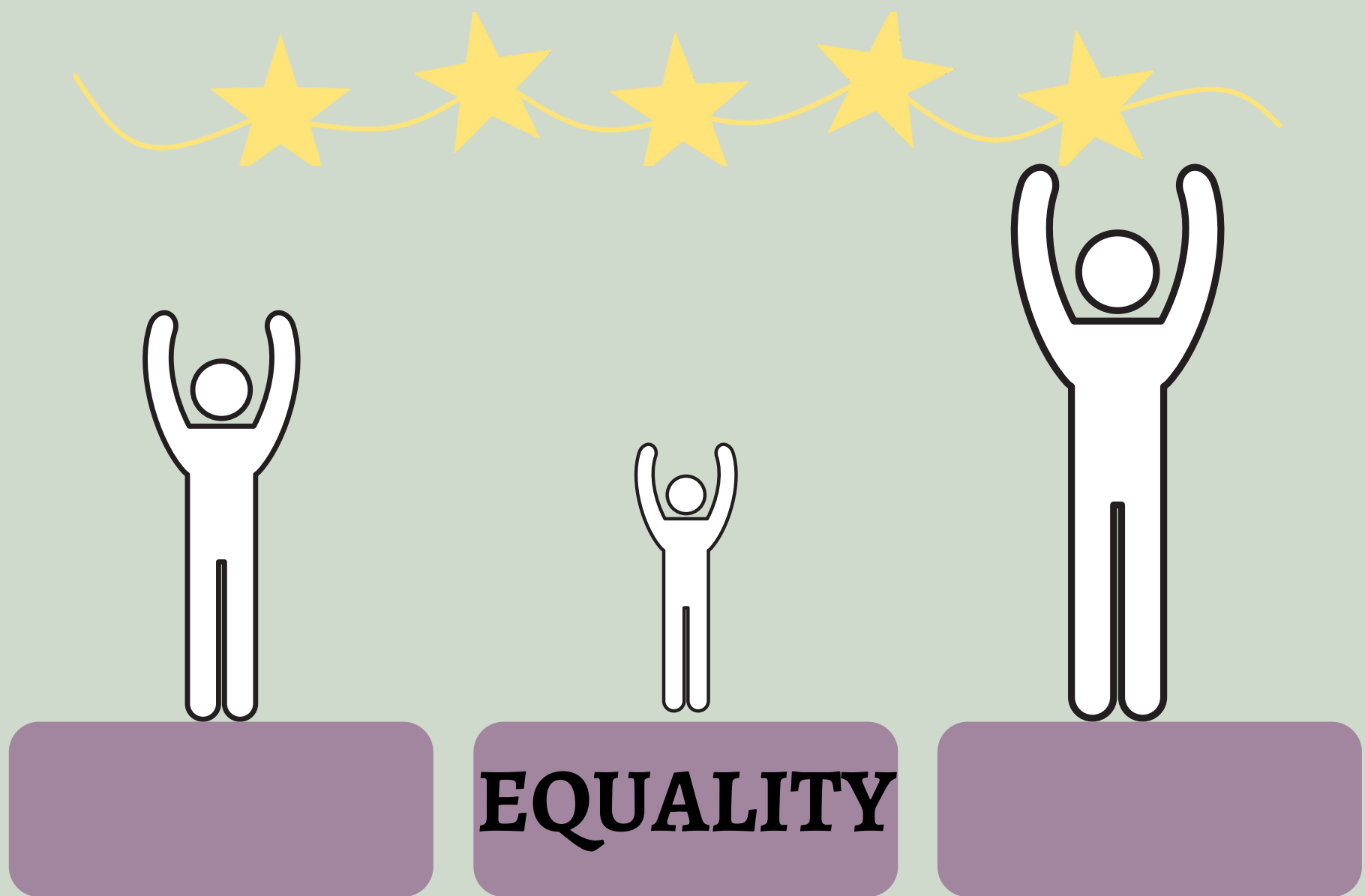
The more you learn about their day, the better you can work with them and teachers to make changes or 'reasonable adjustments'. This will enable them to achieve their potential, be happier in school and feel more understood and supported.

Some children may need 'more reasonable adjustments' than other children or different adjustments for the same problem.

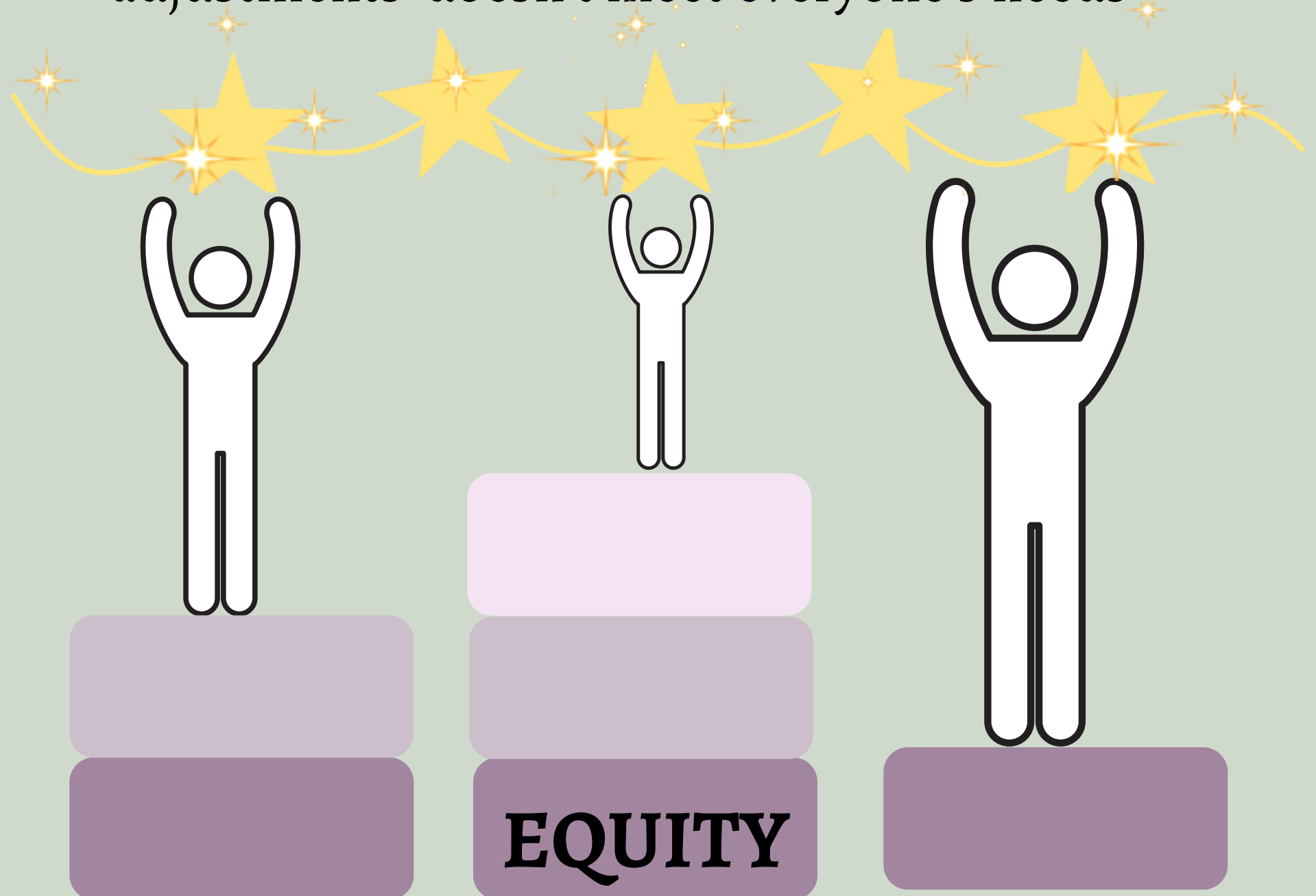
We are aiming for equity; this means every child's plan will look different as every child is unique and needs may change from moment to moment.



# Support our Children to Reach for the Stars



**Equality** - providing everyone with the same 'reasonable adjustments' doesn't meet everyone's needs



**Equity** - providing each person with what they specifically need to succeed means everyone can achieve.



# Reasonable Adjustment Top Tip Check list

To be able to learn you need to feel safe.  
Does your child or young person have a member of staff they feel comfortable talking with?

Is the environment meeting their sensory needs as well as their learning needs? What else could help or what may need changing?

Is there flexibility in the timetable if they feel overwhelmed or anxious? Do they know where they can go and who they can talk to?

Children do well if and when they can . What else can we do to help them achieve their potential and reach for the stars?



# Signposting

1

[www.thepdaspace.com](http://www.thepdaspace.com)

Family support workshops, webinars, coaching and online peer support groups. (Founder: Nicola Reekie)

2

[www.amandahindasc.co.uk](http://www.amandahindasc.co.uk)

Amanda Hind's website - Educational Consultant and Tutor

3

[www.autismunderstood.co.uk](http://www.autismunderstood.co.uk)

Website designed by autistic young people, for autistic people

4

[www.pdasociety.org.uk](http://www.pdasociety.org.uk)

PDA Society UK

5

[www.autisticgirlsnetwork.org](http://www.autisticgirlsnetwork.org)

Great resources including Reasonable Adjustments Possible at School' document.

6

[www.autisticrealms.com](http://www.autisticrealms.com)

Helen Edgar's website - Autism/ education/ mental health articles and resources

*Please seek professional advice if needed.*





A free community resource  
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Autistic Realms

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