



Why Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) is harmful and signposting to support further research

(Helen Edgar, Autistic Realms, updated Dec 2023).

“Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) is being widely promoted as an approach to be used on people who are disabled and/or neurodivergent and display behaviours others do not wish to see. Often the disabled person has significant sensory, communication, trauma or medical needs and rights that are not met. Despite a broad buy-in, PBS is not actually supported by Disabled People’s Organisations and allies. This is because PBS does not meet human rights, has a poor quality evidence base and its risks and harms are not understood.”

([AMASE, \(2021\), On ‘Positive behaviour support.’](#))

“Both rewards and punishments are ways of manipulating behaviour that destroy the potential for real learning. Instead, he advocates providing an engaging curriculum and a caring atmosphere “so kids can act on their natural desire to find out.”

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