

**THE SMILE ASD PARENTS’ SUPPORT GROUP**

**Lead by Claudia Goodman**

**Thursday 8th February 2018**

**9.30 am-11.45 am**

**Ifield Smile, Cedar Avenue, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 5JT**

**The Rollercoaster of ASD: Parents’ Perspectives**

We welcome **Charlie Mansfield** and **Anne Crocker** who will betalking about their own individual experiences, answering your questions and encouraging further discussion

Charlie has worked as a SENCO Assistant and is a trainee counsellor. She has a son with autism attending a mainstream primary school.

Anne has written articles for a specialist SEN magazine and also for the charity Autistica. She has 2 teenage daughters with autism who attend a special school.

With so much focus on the child it is easy for the parents and families of those with ASD to be forgotten. There are daily struggles, meltdowns, judgement from those who don’t understand and the doubting of your own parenting skills. The battle of getting a diagnosis, coming to terms with the uniqueness of your child and the strain on family relationships are some of the challenges faced by parents. What are the practical things can parents do? What support is available for you and your child and how can parents access this support?

The session aims to provide an outlet where parents can gain useful information, share their experiences, learn from each other and feel heard and understood

Please come along to Ifield Smile’s Support Group for the parents, carers and families of any child or young person with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Asperger Syndrome, Social Communication Difficulties or those in the process of a diagnosis. You do not have to be a parent of a young person attending Ifield School.

Our support group is **free** to attend. Refreshments provided. Please book your place in advance.

If you would like more information or to **make a booking**, please contact us:

**smile@ifield.kent.sch.uk** or phone **01474 536924**