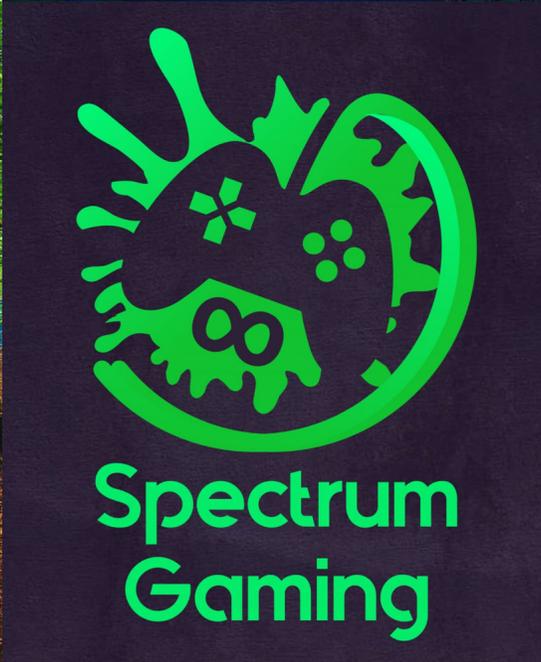




Charity Number: 1193763
For more information contact
info@spectrumgaming.net



Join our volunteer team

(And our epic community!)

Who we are, what we do and how we can change young people's lives together

Spectrum Gaming is an online community for autistic young people which has three main intended outcomes:

1 BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

A lot of autistic young people are lonely, isolated and struggle with friendships. We wanted to create a community where autistic young people feel comfortable and can make strong friendships in a safe way. Our main provision is our online community, that anyone from across the UK can access. We also run meet ups for young people who live in the Greater Manchester area.

2 SELF ACCEPTANCE

Because of how much people misunderstand autism and the way it is diagnosed, unfortunately many autistic people hate their diagnosis or feel ashamed of being autistic. We want to make sure as many autistic people as possible are able to accept their differences and live the happiest lives they can.

3 ADVOCACY

We don't just want to be a community that enables autistic young people to develop meaningful friendships and develop a more positive perspective of autism. We want to create a movement that will have a positive influence on society through advocacy and enable strategical change to ensure the needs of autistic young people are met across the UK. We have created a platform where young people can share their voices through content, talks and more.

As a registered charity number 1193763 we fundraise for activities, equipment and other resources needed to deliver our mission and improve the lives of autistic young people.

Our Aims

Our Values

While Spectrum Gaming is managed and facilitated by volunteers, we believe that young people's voices are the most important in deciding how services should be delivered and how they should be supported. Therefore, what we do, how we run and our transformation is driven by the members of our community.

35 autistic young people are part of our voluntary staff team, and they fulfil a variety of roles including Server Managers, Event Planning Managers, Server Improvement Team Members and Moderators.

Working with young people has led to our three core values of Spectrum Gaming:

- Child Centred - The members of our community should be the people who decide what we do and how it develops.
- Emulous - We embrace (and encourage) criticism. We will always be open minded and willing to learn/improve.
- Quality over quantity - We will prioritise people who are in our community first, and make sure any changes we make do not compromise the experience of current members of our community.

How people view autism is also really important to us. In most spaces and places autism is seen as a negative thing, but Spectrum Gaming proves that most people are wrong. Autism is not a 'disorder' or a 'burden', it is simply a difference. Just like every other brain type, the autistic brain has its negatives and things that make life more difficult. But autistic brains also have many positives that others may never have the opportunity to experience.

At Spectrum Gaming, we want to prove to young people that who they are is ok. They can be themselves, but still develop meaningful connections and achieve what they would like to. Every autistic young person is brilliant and can achieve amazing things, even if they don't believe it right now, and we hope to prove this to them. Read more about our views on autism here.



What We Do

Here is what we currently offer to members of our community:

Two Discord Communities (one for under 13s and one for teenagers): This community has chat channels around different topics, voice channels and channels for sending pictures, videos, memes and more. We also host regular events for the members (young people request events in the dedicated 'event suggestions' channel, so events are always based on their interests).



Minecraft server: Young people can go on an adventure on their own, or team up with others in a Minecraft faction! We have a survival world, but also a creative plot world on our Minecraft server. Any autistic young person under the age of 18 can access our Minecraft Server

Face to face meet ups in Greater Manchester: Young people request meet ups based on their interests, then we facilitate them (COVID allowing). On some occasions we host and arrange the meetups ourselves (trainspotting, Pokémon Go meetups, trips to the park), but where possible we partner with other local organisations and work together with them to run meetups (Forest School, hikes, gaming clubs).



We hope to expand this to other areas in the UK as Spectrum Gaming grows and develops.

Digital Content and advocacy: A lot of our members love creating content, so we also use platforms such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitch to create content, both around gaming but also understanding autism. We work on advocacy projects in other ways too, such as with our School Is Difficult Project

Supporting You Volunteering

Our community is growing at a rapid pace, and as a result we are looking for volunteers to help ensure Spectrum Gaming can be the best it can be for members of our community. We have areas of support we need more support in, and we have new areas of work developing as young people have identified them as gaps!

Some roles we are looking for

- **Autistic Community Mentors:** This talking with young people (via text or voice chat), but also playing games with young people who are looking for gamers or people to connect with (young people find it much more easier to connect when there is an adult present)
- **Greater Manchester meet up volunteers:** Meet up volunteers can help run our activities, making sure young people who attend feel comfortable and have fun! We have a variety of meetups such as a monthly forest school, a gaming club, but also other one off events.
- **Online event volunteers online:** Event leads run or support events for young people in our community. This can be the same event every week (e.g. a weekly Fortnite event) or you can pick a different event every time! This can be gaming or non-gaming related.
- **Minecraft moderators:** Moderators are responsible for responding to support requests and fixing any issues that arise on the Minecraft server, or playing with and supporting newer members.
- **Admin:** Having a slot to respond to the emails and social media enquiries we have received on that day (this would usually not take more than one hour)

Time Commitment

We ask for a minimum commitment of an hour per week (or two hours every two weeks), but you are welcome to be more involved if you would like to be!

While seeing young people develop friendships and change their perspectives about autism is **AMAZING**, it comes with challenges, and isn't always easy! Here is the support that will be available for any volunteer who joins our team:

We have created a Discord server for our volunteer team so we can all communicate with and support each other (if you are unsure of how to use Discord don't worry, training will be provided)

We have fortnightly catchups over Discord to talk about what is going well and how we can improve

You will have access to monthly training on a variety of topics including online safety, PDA, low arousal, OCD and more.

There will be a facility to arrange 1:1 meetings with a manager at any point

If there is anything else you need to fulfil a role at Spectrum Gaming, please let us know and we will do whatever we can to accommodate this!

The application process

1. Once you have completed the application form, we will arrange an informal chat to discuss how we can support you and what you would like to get out of volunteering with us.
2. If we feel you are a good fit for our team and your views are in line with our values, we will invite you to complete a DBS check. At the same time we will offer some induction training dates.
3. Once you have attended training and your DBS has returned, you can become part of our team!

Any questions, thoughts or ideas?

Thank you for taking the time to read this pack. If you have any thoughts, questions or you would like to contact us for any reason, please email info@spectrumgaming.net.

