



FATHERS FIRST

FOR FATHERS OF
CHILDREN WITH
SEND

Mr Aaron Coward

Email: aaron.fathersfirst@gmail.com

Tel: TBC



OUR MISSION

To create a support group for fathers of children with SEND needs, that will provide dads with a space to talk and share, get advice and support.

OUR AIMS:

Empower fathers to:

- Overcome the stigma of SEND
- Bring Family's together (unite individual families)
- Develop a better of understanding of the needs of their child/ren
- Create a network of fathers and families that support one another

And to:

- Provide professional advice from specialists and service providers
- Raise awareness about the discrimination faced by SEND families



AARON COWARD:

Aaron Coward has worked within SEND setting for over 14 years, supporting children, young people, parents, and schools. His passion for inclusion and sports resulted in a partnership with the Wembley Stadium Learning Zone, where he facilitated a range of visits for children with a variety of additional needs; creating a once in a lifetime experience that was accessible FOR ALL.

Aaron understands the experiences and hardships faced by fathers of children with SEND and set out to create a programme to meet their needs, which is now known as 'Fathers First'. His work recently culminated in providing access to the sensory box at Wembley Stadium, as well as seats in the stands. Fathers of his group attended with their whole families, to watch England take on Germany in 2022, and then again in 2024 to watch England beat Belgium. For those fathers, they realised a dream they never thought possible. For Aaron, it was a heartening experience, to see how far these fathers had progressed on their journey.

A quote from Aaron:

"When I saw those dads sitting in the stands, with not just their SEND children, but their whole families, I was overwhelmed with emotion. I think they realised that they could do everything other dad's do and include their whole families too. With tears of joy in their eyes, they shouted out to me saying, 'look, we're all here'. All I could do was smile and thank them all for coming. They showed such courage, and seeing those dads so empowered and proud, is one of my highlights; I'll never forget that moment.