

**Table 2****Core symptoms of autism****Social communication difficulties**

- Atypical eye contact
- Intrusion into others' personal space
- Difficulties with two-way interaction and interpreting non-verbal communication (including reduced empathy)
- Tendency to take language literally
- Social naivety and vulnerability to exploitation
- Reduced interest in socialising and difficulties interacting in social groups
- Loneliness and social anxiety (and risk of depression)
- Social anxiety

**Strongly repetitive behaviour/resistance to change or restricted interests**

- Preference for repetition and routine
- Need for sameness (eating the same foods, wearing the same clothes) and anxiety at any change
- Preference for predictability and predictable events (watching washing machines spinning)
- Strict order and precision
- Need for clarity, strict order and precision
- Attention to small 'irrelevant' details
- Narrow deep interests, 'fixated' interests