Here's how to….. complete a Coventry Grid

What is the Coventry Grid?	The Coventry Grid was initially produced to summarise the differences between the behaviour of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and those with significant attachment problems. It was originally created by Helen Moran (2010) but has subsequently been revised (2017) to incorporate Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA). This was viewed to be important as many of the behaviours may initially appear to be the same but the support and strategies that may support them are often different. **A note of caution.** There are conflicting opinions about the relevance of a diagnosis of PDA and the efficacy of any assessment relating to it. Both versions of the Grid are included with this guide, but it is important to remember that neither will replace a thorough and robust assessment by a medical professional.
When would you use it?	The Coventry Grid is often suggested when a pupil presents with challenging or confusing behaviours. They may exhibit some ASD traits but may not be responding to the quality first strategies that have been implemented. It is also a useful piece of supporting evidence if you are making a paediatric referral. A diagnosis of Attachment Disorder (AD) is unlikely, without a disclosure or if a child is still living with their birth parents, however a completed Coventry Grid can be another piece of information that will inform the medical professionals involved.
What does it look like?	The original grid comprises of a three column table, with one column outlining an area of behaviour and the other two stating how a pupil with ASD or AD may respond. It is designed this way so that a direct comparison can be made. The revised grid now includes an additional column that describes behaviours that a pupil with PDA may display. In addition to this it includes a point based system that can be used to guide medical professionals when making a diagnosis. Please be aware that is just a guide, one part of a very complex puzzle, and does not replace assessment by medical professionals.
Who should complete it?	The Coventry Grid is free to download and can be completed by anyone but is most effective when completed by staff that have a good understanding of the pupil ie the SENCo and the class teacher together.

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How do you complete it?	1. Read the statement in the left hand corner. 2. Read the comments in the other columns and consider if any of them apply to the pupil, if they do the simplest thing to do is highlight them. 3. Continue this process for all the sections of the grid. 4. When it is completed take some time to reflect on which column has the greatest number of highlighted sections. **This could be an indicator of one of the three conditions but is not a definitive diagnosis**. 5. The highlighted areas of the grid can then be used to inform the implementation of strategies and interventions to support the pupil in school.

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