



## Communication Speech and Language Policy

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An academy within:



"Learning together; to be the best we can be"

Coppice School is a school, which caters for pupils with severe learning difficulties and associated complex difficulties, which may include medical problems and/or communication problems. Currently, the school has two Speech and Language Therapists who come in one day per week. The Speech and Language Therapists are employed by the Health Service and their service is “bought in” by the Local Education Authority.

### **Aims of the School**

- To develop lively and enquiring minds by providing a stimulating environment, a variety of structured experiences through a broad-based and balanced curriculum relevant to each pupil
- To foster within each individual a sense of self-respect, to enable them to take their place as a self-disciplined confident responsible and acceptable member of the community
- To help equip children with the skills necessary to become independent and self-sufficient members of society
- To develop within each child a positive set of attitudes values and beliefs and to encourage an awareness of and respect for the attitudes, beliefs cultures and moral values others.
- To expect and enable each child to fulfil their potential in all areas of the curriculum and to use effectively the skills and knowledge acquired.
- To offer pupils the opportunity to develop interests and skills which provide enjoyment and enable them to use their leisure time constructively.
- To strive in this ever-changing technological society to provide the children with the competence needed for employment.
- To actively encourage a positive working partnership between parents and school
- To be committed to the mainstream integration of pupils whenever this best meets the needs of the child.
- To enable and empower children to be able to capitalise upon opportunities outside of school and enter society as responsible and active participants.
- To value each member of staff as an integral important member of a multi-disciplinary team.

## **The Presentation of Speech Therapy within School**

A high percentage of our pupils have a requirement for speech and language therapy. This is offered in one of two ways.

1. An individual programme devised by the Speech and Language Therapist and implemented by school staff within the classroom. This work is to be recorded by school staff and the programmes are to be reviewed termly by the Speech and Language Therapist.
2. Children may take part in a group language activity such as Social Use of Language led by a member of staff with oversight from the Speech and Language Therapist.

In addition all pupils who have Speech and Language Therapy specified on their statement are assessed by the Speech and Language Therapists before the Annual Review. A number of different communication systems are used in school to meet the individual needs of the pupils. Amongst these are

- Makaton signs,
- Makaton symbols,
- P.E.C.S.
- VOCAs

There are currently 2 pupils at Coppice who rely entirely on signing as a means of communication. The majority of pupils with Autistic Spectrum disorder use symbols as a supplementary means of communication and a significant proportion of pupils use P.E.C.S. to communicate their wants.

## **Speech and Language Therapy Aims**

To co-operate with the Speech Language Therapists in the presentation of Individual Speech Therapy Programmes.

To make time available for group Speech and Language activities i.e. Social Use of Language groups.

To advise the Speech and Language Therapist of the dates of Annual Reviews where reports are needed

To invite the Speech and Language Therapist to attend the I.E.P. evening each term and to arrange for him/her to see parents and carers.

To provide under the guidance of the Speech and Language Therapists alternative communication systems where appropriate such as P.E.C.S. or signing or the use of symbols.

To make time available for the person responsible for co-ordinating Speech and Language Therapy within school to liaise with the Speech and Language Therapists.

To make every effort to increase the availability of Speech Therapy within the school in order to meet the demands of the increasing number of pupils who need it.

To provide, within the normal budgetary constraints staff training in the area of speech and language.

To make parents aware of their child's speech and language programme and how and when it is implemented.

### **Qualifications of staff**

A member of the Teaching staff is an accredited Makaton Trainer, and trains staff both internally and in other establishments

All staff will have initial (one-day) training in using Makaton signs and symbols to support learning in school delivered by a qualified Makaton Tutor.

All staff will have introductory training on speech and language development relevant to school.

### **Responsibility**

The member of staff who is responsible for co-ordinating Speech Therapy within school and liaising with the Speech and Language Therapists is the communication co-ordinator.  
(Catherine Woolley)

*The Governor with oversight of Speech and Language Therapy is to be appointed.*

### **Review**

In common with other policies, this policy will be review as part of a rolling programme.