

Philosophy

Knightsfield School believes that hearing impaired children have the potential to develop speech, language and communication skills given consistent and appropriate amplification within a supportive language environment.

The school believes that pupils' speech, language and communication skills cannot be developed in isolation, but must be developed as part of a whole school approach to language and literacy.

Speech and language therapy is concerned with all areas of communication. These areas include receptive abilities and expressive skills and are as follows :

- Auditory skills and use of residual hearing
- Lip-reading skills
- Vocabulary
- Sentence structure and syntax
- Intended meaning of words
- Visually presented information
- Non-verbal behaviour and body language
- Social skills
- Conversational skills
- Empathy towards other speakers
- Strategies to help the other speaker/listener
- Intelligibility (use of voice and intonation, rhythm and stress, sound production)
- Fluency
- Use of communication to convey ideas, opinions and questions

The Speech and Language Therapist

Knightsfield School sees the Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) as a valued member of the team and will provide support for Speech and Language Therapy.

The school recognises that the Speech and Language Therapist is employed by the Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, however our policy is to support their role through :

Effective two way communication

- The SLT has regular feedback meetings with the Language and Literacy Coordinator.
- The SLT contributes to pupils' annual review of statement reports.
- The SLT is invited to contribute to the development of the Language and Literacy sessions.
- The SLT is invited to participate in whole school activities and PSHE events.
- The SLT has an open invitation to attend staff meetings.
- The SLT is invited to attend relevant INSET days.
- The SLT is provided with details of important calendar dates.
- The SLT is invited to Parent Consultation evenings.
- The SLT has a pigeon hole in the staff room.

Provision of a positive working environment

- The SLT has use of a speech and language therapy room that provides a quiet working environment.
- An IBM Speech Viewer 3 computer is provided in the room.
- A telephone is provided in the room.
- Direct support is available from the Language and Literacy Coordinator in terms of timetabling and discussion.
- The SLT has access to the staff library of books on hearing impaired children.
- The SLT is welcomed in the staffroom and to all staff social activities.

Implementation of programmes and advice

The goals and targets for each pupil will be distributed as part of the annual review process.
Discussion of individual programmes with English teachers.
Discussion of individual programmes with other staff as appropriate.
Provision of time for language activities within Literacy and Language lessons.

The Pupil

For each pupil Knightsfield School aims through the SLT to :

- Provide speech and language assessment, short and long term goals and targets.
- Provide intervention to facilitate speech and language development where required.
- Provide direct work to reinforce programmes to individual or groups.
- Liaise with parents for transfer of information and continuation of work at home.

Knightsfield School aims through a whole school approach to :

- Help each pupil reach their potential for speech and language development.

Role of the Speech and Language Therapist

The SLT will support the work of Knightsfield School by :

- Carrying out assessments of pupils in the school in receptive and expressive skills detailed on page 1.
- Drawing up a programme of work for individual pupils.
- Reviewing pupil targets with the Language and Literacy Coordinator.
- Providing reports for pupils' annual review of statement.
- Attending staff meetings and school INSET where relevant.
- Liaising with parents, both individually and through school parent consultation evenings.
- Acting as a resource to be used by the school staff in the areas of speech and language development.
- Maintaining their own professional development.
- Providing reports and relevant information to other clinicians when pupils leave Knightsfield School.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Race Equality Policy.