

## School Curriculum Subject Guide

### Language, Literacy and Communication

(last updated in June 2016)

In order to develop communication, language and literacy skills, our students will be supported to:

- Communicate as effectively as possible
- Develop listening skills
- Experience and expect success
- Be able to build relationships
- Gain confidence to take risks
- Develop the ability to make choices
- Develop auditory and visual perception skills
- Develop fine motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination
- Develop the ability to seek help appropriately
- Benefit from a multi-disciplinary input

#### Identified outcomes

We will provide opportunities for the students to:

- Communicate using strategies that are meaningful to the individual
- Use language in meaningful contexts
- Build on what they already know
- Experience a challenging and motivating environment
- Enjoy a wide range of books and other texts
- Use reading for learning
- Practise writing in play as well as in more formal settings
- Develop spelling and grammatical skills
- Collaborate to explore ideas
- Work on tasks they have chosen
- Use student specific methods such as intensive interaction and augmentative communication as well as talk to form social relationships
- Have access to relevant, high quality ICT
- Develop independence in their expressive communication

All forms of students' language or communication will be valued. Staff will be sensitive to the needs of the students who are at the pre-intentional stage of communication, giving them time and respecting their signals. Learners will be motivated to develop intentional communication and to make sense of language in all its forms. To this end, language learning will be made meaningful, purposeful and enjoyable, involving students in a wide variety of experiences and praising effort and achievement.

Students' learning within Language, Literacy, and Communication is supported by the Speech and Language Therapists, who work with teachers to develop programmes for individuals or groups, to set objectives and to monitor progress.

### **Aims for the development of Language, Literacy and Communication**

The school aims to provide all students with the skills they need to access the wider curriculum, developing their competence as communicators. In order to facilitate understanding for all, we will, where appropriate supplement spoken communication with signing, gesture, objects of reference, songs of reference, photos of reference, symbols and augmentative devices.

We will endeavour to incorporate an element of reflection in all learning activities, helping students to develop the ability to express their knowledge, understanding and feelings through whatever means of communication is appropriate. We will provide opportunities for students to develop skills in all areas of language and literacy according to their needs and abilities.

Communication holds the most important key to all learning and underpins life itself, both in a functional and enjoyable way. The development of skills within this subject area is fundamental to the holistic development of students with learning difficulties. The ways in which we are able to use and interpret a range of signs, symbols, gestures, words and phrases have an effect on how we interact and communicate with others. They also affect the extent to which we are able to form relationships and exert some influence over our environment.

A student's level of development offers the foundation of any language and literacy work. The policy aims to establish an enabling curriculum from the pre-intentional level through to an integrated whole language programme of verbal/non-verbal communication, reading and writing.

The language and literacy curriculum comprises all aspects of communication and includes language use, language study, literature, drama, poetry media studies and ICT, as well as the development of skills such as handwriting and spelling.