

Specialist Resource Base

Communication Approaches

“Total Communication’ describes an approach that strives to create a supportive means of communication to understand and be understood” (Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists).

This means that pupils and staff are encouraged to use every available form of communication, with a particular emphasis on what is relevant to individuals. A Total Communication approach acknowledges that communication is not simply about talking and emphasises the importance of body language, gesture, photos, symbols, signs, objects and more creative mediums such as music.

Our approach to communication is holistic in nature and this is implemented throughout the curriculum provision and across all learning opportunities.

- Use of widge symbols across learning
- Visual timetables with symbols
- First and then as consistent language
- Use of individual names before making a request
- Simple and clear instructions using the same language at all times
- Use of Makaton / Signalong
- Gesture, facial expression and movement
- Intensive interaction
- Attention Autism
- Picture exchange
- Objects of reference
- Photos
- Labelling
- Social Stories
- Core boards
- High tech Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) aids as per SLT advice
- Talking mats

Training

SRB to outline any training which has been in place, i.e.:

Elklan.

Word Aware.

Makaton / Signalong training.

Attention Autism.

PECs training.