# Speech and Language Therapy in Hall School Information for Parents and Carers

## What to expect in a complex needs school

Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) work closely with school staff, pupils and their families to ensure that all pupils are supported to maximise their communication. We also provide support to pupils where there is an identified eating and drinking need.

Your Speech and Language Therapist is available to school staff on a regular basis and pupils are regularly discussed to ensure their communication needs are being met and if not whether they need support from the SLT team.
The therapist who work within your school are:
Lily Basley
She usually comes into school on a Thursday.

The needs of each pupil are different and change over time. If your child is referred to SLT we will ensure that you are informed and we will contact you to discuss the plan.

The SLT may see your child more often during some stages of development and less often at other times.

The communication needs of many pupils can be met by school staff following advice and strategies provided by SLTs. Where this is the case your child's care will be transferred to school.

New requests for support can be made by school at any point when further support and advice is indicated.

## What happens when your child requires Speech and Language Therapy support

When SLT receive a request for support we will observe and assess their communication skills through a mixture of direct work, discussion and/or classroom observation.

Targets are then personalized to your child's individual needs.

Support will be delivered mainly within school. This may include training and implementation of strategies within the classroom to optimise communication opportunities, or direct work with your child when required.

## Working with school

SLTs work as part of a team with teachers and other professionals to create a consistent and supportive environment across the whole school.

Support is often provided at a whole-school level to ensure environments are adapted to provide an inclusive communication environment for all pupils.

Training is offered to all staff to ensure they are confident in implementing communication strategies and adapting environments.

Some pupils will require more direct pieces of work. This may be at times of transition or when a change to communication strategies and/or targets is required.

## Promote safe eating and drinking:

Speech and Language Therapists provide crucial support for children with difficulties in eating, drinking, and swallowing (dysphagia) and will provide a mealtime mat to ensure advice is clear.
School staff receive regular training updates and guidance on mealtime mats.

## Working with families

If you would like further support on how to help your child's communication at home, please let us know, as we are always keen to work more closely with parents and carers.

More information is available on our website:

SCAN ME!

JustOneNorfolk.nhs.uk/speech-language

or you can call Just One Number on 0300 300 0123 and speak to a member of our team.