

## **Year 7 Literacy and Numeracy Catch-Up Premium**

### **Report for Academic Year 2018-19**

#### **How did last year's allocation make a difference to the attainment of the pupils who benefit from the funding?**

The Year 7 catch-up premium has been used to implement additional Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) hours from the NHS. This has meant that our five year 7 pupils were classified as 'Priority A' pupils and have received extra direct or indirect (working through communication partners and teaching staff), support to address their communication and interaction skills as all were identified as having significant speech, language and communication difficulties.

Some of this additional support has been through providing additional training for teaching staff, including a full day of intensive interaction. This has helped to skill the work force who are supporting the young people on a daily basis. The training was well received and staff have reported increased confidence in using this approach with our typically non-verbal/pre-formal learners, although this approach does have wider benefits to pupils with some verbal communication.

Progress is being recorded and monitored and the SaLT is available to model this approach to ensure its implementation. This approach looks at developing the fundamentals of communication and is about being responsive, recognising and respecting any attempt at communication. Progress has already been reported with a reduction in challenging behaviours, and more meaningful and social interactions being noted. This is important for the young person's health and wellbeing.

As well as intensive interaction, with help and support from the SaLT, school are starting to implement an Attention Autism approach. The SaLT has provided help and advice as well as demonstrations around implementation. It is used to develop a person's ability to focus and attend to tasks which is important for their ability to learn and process new information.

The SaLT, as well as supporting and developing pupil's communication skills, also manages pupils with dysphagia or feeding difficulties. Two of our year 7 pupils have feeding difficulties and therefore need additional support and supervision around food and drink. The SaLT has been able to minimise the risk of swallowing difficulties by, for example, looking at texture modification whilst also maintaining enjoyment around food and drink and the ability to participate at mealtimes with their peers.

The SaLT has not only worked with teaching staff, but has worked closely with other external agencies including Barnsley assistive technology in supporting a pupil with a high tech communication aid. This has helped to give this young person a voice.

Communication is a high priority for our pupils at Springwater School and remains at the forefront of all staff's work here.

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