

Year 7 Literacy and Numeracy Catch-Up Premium Report for Academic Year 2019-20

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 this year to implement additional Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) hours from the NHS, in order to support speech, language, communication and interaction skills in pupils attending Springwater School.

The team have worked to deliver direct and indirect interventions to support speech, language and communication development, including Intensive Interaction sessions, Attention Autism sessions, PECS support, Makaton support, language enrichment programmes, and training and guidance for staff around alternative and augmentative forms of communication (AAC) with pupils. Additional hours in school have enabled the team to have a more consistent presence in school (on site), ensuring that we are available to advise, troubleshoot, model, and implement recommended strategies when required. We have worked together with children and young people, their families, teaching staff and external health and social care professionals to provide holistic support towards individual goals. We aim to ensure that pupils attending Springwater School receive well-rounded, effective and evidence-based care, in a manner that is meaningful for those whom we support. We have worked alongside specialist services, such as Barnsley Assistive Technology Service, as and when necessary to access tailored support around high-tech communication aids and upskill staff.

The school recognises the importance of a 'total communication' environment, and staff value, respect and promote all forms of communication – whether expressed through body language and facial expressions, signed, spoken, typed, through symbols, or other means. We work to ensure that students at Springwater have a means of expressing themselves and increase their understanding of how others communicate with them; we seek to ensure that pupils have a means of making choices and expressing their preferences.

Alongside speech, language and communication support, the SaLT team also provides support for pupils with dysphagia (feeding and/or swallowing needs). Dysphagia is not uncommon for individuals with learning disabilities, though research shows that these needs can often be overlooked or misunderstood within this population. As a result of the extra hours of SaLT support bought in by the school, SaLT team has been able to provide additional support and supervision around feeding and drinking at home and school, in order to minimise risks of complications associated with swallowing difficulties, and focus upon pleasure from food and socialisation at mealtimes.

Communication is a fundamental human right. As a team, we support our pupils to express their true selves and reach their full potential. We seek to empower children and young people attending Springwater to find their voice, to become as independent as possible, to make their own choices, to advocate for themselves, and to engage confidently with the wider community.

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