

Speech, Language and Communication Needs



This year, as part of the Herts Shining Communications Award, we have continued to enhance our support for pupils' Speech Language and Communication skills through additional staff training and development.

What is the Shining Communication Scheme?

INNOVATIVE



CARING



AGILE



The Hertfordshire Shining Communication Award (HSCA) is a prestigious recognition for schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to developing children's communication, language, and interaction skills. The award celebrates the daily efforts of schools to help children express themselves confidently, listen respectfully, and communicate clearly with one another. The HSCA is a tool for schools to support and improve the outcomes for children presenting with speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN). Schools need to demonstrate strengths across all eight 'rays' of the HSCA: families, quality, leadership, intervention, identification, environment, training, and knowledge.

We will keep you updated on our progress as we continue to work towards achieving this prestigious award.

The Importance of Speech, Language and Communication

How Do We Support Communication in School?

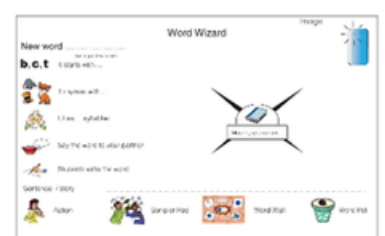
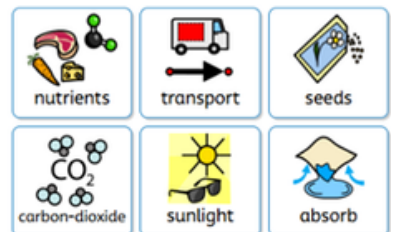
Visual Support We use pictures, diagrams and modelling to reduce memory demands, help pupils understand information, support access to texts, and to condense information and help maintain focus

High Quality Classroom Talk Discussions and classroom talk is built into lessons through activities such as debates (P4C) and collaborative learning. Open-ended questions encourage detailed answers and extend thinking. Sentence starters and 'talking frames' help pupils organise and express their ideas.

Vocabulary Teaching Key vocabulary is explicitly taught across the curriculum and reinforced through displays and our 'word wizard' approach. New vocabulary is pre-taught or linked to known information. Pupils explore definitions and review and refine vocabulary choices.

Adult Use of Language Staff model clear pronunciation and language structures. We adjust pace, pause, clarify and simplify. We adapt instructions, chunking them into manageable steps to help understanding.

Communication skills are the foundation for learning, literacy, social development and emotional wellbeing



Additional Support



Some children benefit from targeted individual or small group intervention focusing on: Speech sounds and pronunciation, Vocabulary development, Sentence structure (e.g., Colourful Semantics), Narrative and inferencing skills (e.g., Language Investigators) or Social Communication skills (e.g., Lego Therapy, Talkabout/Speechmark programmes).

Where needed, we can also seek advice from Speech and Language Therapy Services. Click on the image for more information.

Supporting at Home

Reading together and discussing new vocabulary

Explaining unfamiliar words or phrases during everyday activities

Encouraging your child to talk about their day and interests

Making time to talk together with minimal distractions.

Links to Resources



NHS Support Services - Vocabulary and Word Finding



Advice and activities to develop speech sounds

Bilingual quick tips

National Literacy Trust bilingual quick tips cover topics including sharing books with your child and talking to your child in your own language.

