

Communication Support

Our Approach to Communication

At Chadsgrove, we recognise that communication is central to learning, independence and emotional wellbeing. All pupils are supported to develop meaningful communication skills in ways that are appropriate to their individual needs, strengths and preferences.

We understand that communication is more than spoken language. It includes verbal and non-verbal communication, listening, understanding, expression, interaction and the use of alternative and augmentative communication methods. Our approach is inclusive, respectful and child-centred.

How We Support Communication

Communication support is embedded throughout the school day and across all areas of learning. Strategies are carefully planned and adapted to ensure pupils can understand information, express themselves and engage with others.

Support may include:

- Clear, consistent routines and visual structures
- Use of visual supports such as symbols, photographs, timetables and choice boards
- Simplified and carefully paced language
- Modelling and repetition to support understanding
- Opportunities for communication within meaningful, real-life contexts

Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC)

For pupils who need additional support, we use a range of Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) systems. These are selected based on individual needs and may include:

- Objects of reference
- Communication boards and books
- Signing systems such as Signalong and BSL
- Speech-generating devices and communication apps

AAC is used alongside spoken language where appropriate, and pupils are encouraged to use their preferred communication methods across all settings.

Specialist Support

Our staff work closely with Speech and Language Therapists and other professionals to ensure communication targets are appropriate and consistently supported. Advice and strategies from external professionals are incorporated into daily practice.

Individual communication goals may form part of a pupil's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and are reviewed regularly.

Communication Team

Communication support at Chadsgrove is led by a dedicated team:

- **Rebecca Sabel** – Communication Lead
- **Stacie Priest** – Communication Teaching Assistants
- **Claire McEntee** - Speech & Language Therapist
- **Jo Elliott** - Speech & Language Therapist
- **Chloe Jameson** - Speech & Language Therapist
- **Katie Jackson** - Speech & Language

Working in Partnership with Parents

We value the knowledge and experience that parents and carers bring. Strong communication between home and school helps ensure consistency and progress.

We aim to:

- Share strategies and resources used in school
- Listen to parental views and concerns
- Celebrate communication achievements, big and small
- Work together to support communication at home and in the community

If you have any questions about your child's communication support, or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Useful Links:

<https://youtu.be/mXj1Btf0qFw?si=QYyakYj4pihIkOgY>

<https://youtu.be/hK5zBux89jE?si=sZyrDnJlvNHcHud->

[How to use a Total Communication Approach](#)

<https://youtu.be/v4RuFPrl8Io?si=TKfZ9ni1fKHNJMdp>