CASE STUDY

Supporting pupils with SLCN

Pitcheroak School, together with local NHS Speech and Language therapists, enables 138 pupils between the ages of 4 and 18 to enjoy, achieve, learn and thrive within a communication-friendly environment.

In partnership with The Communication Trust, Pitcheroak School has made a Communication Commitment to further develop their established approach in support of learning for those with SLCN. We now have the full support of our school Leadership Team. We have identified areas for staff development and agreed approaches in support of SLCN. By providing updated and clear advice in a uniformed approach, we have reduced the administrative work load enabling staff to be more involved in supporting pupils who have an SLCN.

Using the Action Plan to guide our practice we have been able to identify clear targets to enable us to embed our Communication Commitment throughout school. We have developed and are beginning to complete an informative communication summary and plan (SCP) for each child – as a result staff are now able to access advice and information, including SLT targets, suggested strategies and the modes of communication support required for individual children and young adults. Staff will be able to use this information in support of curriculum target setting and for Annual Review meetings. As a result of our Communication Commitment we have collated all interventions used in school, analysed SLCN data and have started to develop training opportunities for all staff, all in conjunction with our school development plan and fully supported by our senior Leadership Team.

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From September 2014 each class will have a purpose made visual timetable. Each timetable will be positioned in the same place in each room. On the timetable all subjects will be represented with the same symbols and written words, or concrete objects, depending on the needs of the children. A folder will be shared to ensure the same symbols are to be used and for ease of access. To ensure consistency the same size and key word only font will be used along with the same agreed objects of reference, as required across school.

We have attempted to make our approach as clear and concise as possible, templates and documents have all been developed and placed for ease of access. Resources and non-negotiable strategies including the SLCN plan have been introduced during a whole

school staff meeting delivered in partnership with the school speech and language therapists, this has enabled staff to have ownership and develop a dialogue for clarification and or discussing further ideas.

We have found the Communication Trust invaluable and would recommend using the Action Plan as a great starting place for any school. Communication is at the heart of all we do at Pitcheroak School, our Communication Commitment has enabled us to step back look at what we have and make a positive and supportive way forward to support each and every one of our pupils with SLCN.