Priority area one: School Leadership

Why is this priority area important?

We all know that leadership influences everything in school. By ensuring your Commitment is driven from the leadership team, we will ensure policy and practice cascade throughout the school and to the wider community.

How does this link to the 2014 SEND Code of Practice?

The Commitment supports school leaders to think strategically about communication and reinforces as the Code does, the essential role the senior leadership team has in leading effective practice in identifying and securing effective support for pupils with SLCN.

What are the principles we are trying to achieve?

- Our school leadership team understand that communication is important.
- Our school leadership team know that there are strategies to support communication.
- Our school leadership team is committed to embedding policy and practice within our school that reflects the importance of communication.

The four actions for School Leadership - Choose one of the actions for this area:

Our action (What are we going to do?)	Our aim (Why are we doing it?)	To help you fulfil your commitment
1.1 Appoint Communication Champions on the senior leadership team and governing body.	Our senior leadership team and governors prioritise communication.	• Read the Communication Champion Toolkit (with further information on the role, why it's important, practical examples of what the Champions can do and where you can find further information). • Appoint a member of senior leadership team as Communication Champion. • Appoint a Link Governor as Communication Champion.
1.2 Include actions around communication in the school development plan.	We plan for communication as part of our on-going improvement.	• Read the guidance on putting communication in your development plan. • Identify as a leadership team your communication priorities for your school development plan. • Share your stories and ideas on practical ways to include communication in your school development plan.
1.3 Dedicate a senior leadership team meeting to communication.	Our school has a strategic approach for communication.	• Use the presentation as a basis for discussing communication. • Ask all senior leadership to read A Generation Adrift before the meeting to help them come prepared with ideas around communication. • Identify an action you might want to take forward as a senior leadership team.
1.4 Adopt a strategy for identifying pupils who are struggling with communication.	We are committed to identifying pupils who are struggling with communication.	• Read the guidance on early identification and why it's important. • Read the factsheet on national prevalence levels and compare your own levels of identification. • Read the information on different ways to identify pupils who are struggling with communication. • Develop and agree your school strategy.