

Communication and Interaction Needs

Communication and Interaction Needs Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

Pupils with specific SLCN cover the whole ability range. They may have difficulty in understanding or making others understand information conveyed through spoken language. Their acquisition of speech and their oral language skills may be significantly behind their peers. Their speech may be poor or unintelligible. Frustrations and anxieties may arise because a failure to be able to communicate effectively exists. In turn, these frustrations and anxieties can lead to behavioural difficulties and have a negative impact on peers and social relationships.

Pupils with language impairments find it hard to understand and use words in context. They may use words incorrectly with inappropriate grammatical patterns, have a reduced vocabulary or find it hard to recall words and express ideas. They may also hear or see a word but not be able to understand its meaning or have trouble getting others to understand what they are trying to say.

Your child may need support with:

- Attention and listening skills
- Understanding language
- Using language
- Speech sounds
- Interacting with others in groups
- Speaking fluently

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a pupil communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them.

It is a spectrum condition, which means that, while all pupils with autism share certain difficulties, their condition will affect them in different ways. Some pupils with autism are able to live relatively independent lives but others may have accompanying learning difficulties and need specialist support. Pupils with autism may also experience over or under sensitivity to sounds, touch, tastes, smells, light or colours.

Pupils with ASD can find it difficult to:

- Understand and use non-verbal and verbal communication
- Understand social behaviour, which affects their ability to interact with children and adults
- Think and behave flexibly, which may be shown in restricted, obsessional or repetitive activities.

These areas are commonly known as the 'Triad of Impairment':

- Communication - poor communication skills in terms of verbal and non-verbal such as eye contact, facial expression, gesture and body language.
- Social Interaction - difficulties with social interaction: unable to empathise with others to understand their feelings and behaviour.
- Imagination - inability to use imagination this affects the area of thought, language and behaviour