

SECONDARY LANGUAGE LINK

Bringing **Communication** Into Focus

Developing
Confidence

Supporting
Understanding

Raising
Engagement

Promoting
Communication

Building
Relationships

THE COMMUNICATION CHALLENGE

Understanding and using language is fundamental to inclusion in today's society, with access to the job market increasingly dependent on strong communication skills. Yet upwards of 10% of all young people present with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN). This number rises sharply for students growing up in areas of social deprivation with as many as 50% not having adequate communication skills to interact effectively with those around them.

As these young people progress through school, their difficulties can be disguised as poor behaviour or weak literacy, with schools failing to identify the underlying need. Sadly, the long-term impact of unaddressed language needs is far reaching, leaving students more at risk of exclusion from school, long term unemployment and a higher risk of falling into criminality.

With school budgets under pressure and access to support services restricted, how can schools address this crucial, growing challenge?

Poor behaviour

'We don't have students with language difficulties, it's poor behaviour that concerns us.'

Lack of resources

'Sadly, even when language needs are identified, in this climate we don't have the resources or expertise to support them.'

No access to training

'Our Senior Leadership Team expects teachers to meet the needs of all SLCN students, but how can schools equip staff with these skills?'

“ Children with poor vocabulary skills are **TWICE** as likely to be unemployed when they reach adulthood.* ”

*Law J., Rush R., Schoon I. and Parsons S. (2009) Modelling developmental language difficulties from school entry into adulthood: literacy, mental health, and employment outcomes. *Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research*, 52(6): 1401-16

BOOK A
FREE
TRIAL

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THE SOLUTION

Secondary Language Link is a unique
comprehensive support package for SLCN



INFORM

**SLCN Inclusion
Toolkit:** Online teacher
training



INTERVENE

Talk Fitness:
Targeted group
interventions giving
students a voice



INCLUDE

**Inclusive
Teaching Plans:**
Communication friendly
teaching to
unlock learning



IDENTIFY

**Standardised
Assessment:**
Revealing
language needs

THE PACKAGE

This online package combines a standardised assessment, targeted interventions with measured outcomes and a teacher training package. It enables schools to identify and effectively support the language and communication needs of Key Stage 3 students aged 11-14 years, boosting attainment and improving life chances.



STANDARDISED ASSESSMENT

Language comprehension issues are commonly disguised by challenging behaviour or literacy difficulties. The Secondary Language Link screening assessment helps schools identify when language difficulties are underpinning poor behaviour or under achievement.

The online, standardised assessment is used universally in year 7 to screen language comprehension. It comprises two parts; Core Language identifying students who have difficulty accessing the curriculum and Social Understanding identifying those at risk of social isolation.

The content reflects the daily demands for young people to understand language both in the classroom and in conversation with peers. The presentation is varied and interactive, making it an engaging experience for students, and places minimal demands on literacy skills with its audio format.

Core Language

- Following classroom instructions
- Concept vocabulary
- Processing information
- Complex sentences

Identify those with difficulty accessing the curriculum

Social Understanding

- Understanding sarcasm
- Multiple meaning
- Verbal inferences
- Idiomatic language

Identify students at risk of social exclusion

REPORTING

Following assessment, a series of individual and cohort reports are generated. Instant results identify students who need specialist support and recommend appropriate interventions so you can target help where it is most needed. Senior leaders can prioritise resources and track identified groups of pupils, for example, students eligible for Pupil Premium.





Include

Using Approaches To Unlock Learning

WATCH THE
VIDEO ONLINE

INCLUSIVE TEACHING PLANS

These plans describe universal strategies that teachers can use across the curriculum to support students with SLCN and EAL. Five core strategies are described in detail and represent the small adjustments to teaching that are most effective in supporting access to the curriculum and boosting student engagement.

Subject teachers use the strategy most appropriate for their learners and measure progress through an easy-to-use interface.

Core Teaching Strategies

- Visual support
- Support & monitor understanding
- Instructions
- Vocabulary
- Questions

'It has been great as a tool for evidence for a graduated response.'

ALNCo, Cardiff





Intervene

Giving Students A Voice

TARGETED INTERVENTION

Talk Fitness is an innovative, teacher-led targeted group intervention aimed at improving cross-curricular speaking and listening skills. Students are identified for Talk Fitness following the Secondary Language Link standardised assessment.

The video-based platform provides a rich context for teaching, focusing on real-life situations that are authentic and meaningful to young people. Its unique format of online student coaching makes this an engaging experience even for 'hard to reach' students.

Schools are provided with detailed guidance notes and printable resources to minimise preparation time. Pre and post assessments provide comprehensive measures of progress.

'The intervention programmes have been effective with our students and their website is easy to use.'

Teacher, Basingstoke





Inform

Guiding The Direction For Teaching

Learn to recognise students with SLCN

SLCN INCLUSION TOOLKIT

This online training resource examines key aspects of teaching to support the learning and achievement of students with SLCN and EAL. The school's Head of Inclusion can use the online videos with groups of staff to encourage discussion and reflection. Teachers will identify areas they need to consider in their own daily practice.

The toolkit is delivered in two parts. Part one helps teachers understand the importance and impact of poor communication on learning and life chances. Part two showcases good practice across the curriculum, empowering teachers to make effective adjustments to their delivery in order to maximise learning for all students.



WATCH OUR VIDEO FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT

www.speechandlanguage.info



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Based on the size of your Year 7

E.g. £895 for 201-240 Year 7 Students
Discounts available.

BOOK A **FREE TRIAL**

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