

Our Vision

St Andrew's Academy is an 11-19 years residential special school located in Breadsall Hilltop, Derby. We are an inspirational community where we take care of each other, enjoy learning and work hard to achieve our goals. Preparing our students for lifelong learning underpins the entire curriculum taught at St Andrew's Academy. Students are provided with diverse opportunities to develop and understand their strengths, show preferences and make informed choices.

At St Andrew's Academy we believe that all of our students are entitled to a curriculum which enriches their communication and interaction. We strive to provide an environment which stimulates development and effective communication amongst all of our students, regardless of their communication ability.

Equal Opportunities

Throughout St Andrew's Academy the planning, assessment and evaluation of progress in communication and interaction will be inclusive and respectful of students from different ethnic groups, religion, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, lifelong learning, disability and age range.

Overall Aims

St Andrew's Academy is committed to providing an environment for total communication. The academy encourages language development in all its students and aims to develop each individual's skill of communication. To meet these needs a whole variety of systems should be addressed, for example, body language, all the senses, signing (Makaton), speaking, listening, intensive interaction, use of symbols, objects of reference, support to point or type and AAC devices.

As an academy:

- We aim to acknowledge all forms of communication.
- We aim to develop individual student's strategies to support effective communication and interaction.
- We aim to provide students with a wide range of experiences to prepare them for each key stage and beyond.
- We support students by giving opportunities for them to communicate and interact in a variety of contexts in and outside of the classroom.
- We aim to provide a positive language-rich environment where our students want to communicate and feel confident to interact with a range of people.
- We aim to provide a broad, balanced, age appropriate and relevant curriculum that enables students to develop, progress and achieve to the best of their ability in a positive and meaningful way.
- We aim to provide high quality staff development in the support and delivery of communication.

Curriculum

Communication is at the heart of children's learning. It is the foundation for all other learning and is inter-related with all other aspects of the curriculum. The students of St Andrew's Academy learn through a wide range of speaking and listening activities which are delivered as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Activities may include (but are not limited to):

- Listening and responding to sounds and stories.
- Listening to and joining in with songs and rhymes.
- Listening to each other and adults.
- Recognising their own name.
- Using the names of others to gain attention.
- Participating in conversations, discussions and group times.
- Participating in regular daily activities which promote opportunities to make requests and express needs and wants.
- Answering questions.
- Recalling events.
- Participating in role play and dramatic activities.
- Visiting the library or book corner.
- Visiting the local community.

- Recognising and reading print in the environment.
- Using and reading symbols.
- Using and recognising Makaton signs.
- Intensive interaction.
- Focused communication sessions according to each student's needs and abilities.
- Use of resources and displays.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Subject Leader will liaise with other colleagues (Speech and Language Therapy, Teacher of the Deaf, University Research Project Leaders) and outside agencies such as the Makaton Charity to ensure agreed common approaches and staff expertise.

Key Stages will be responsible for the planning and delivery of programmes and the total communication environment, with support and guidance from Speech and Language Therapy as required. Key Stage Leaders will monitor progress and quality of provision.

St Andrew's Academy's Class Teachers and their teams will work together with Speech and Language Therapists, Teacher of the Deaf, Educational Psychologist and other colleagues to ensure that individual needs are met and appropriately ambitious targets are set and worked towards.

The Subject Leader will observe lessons being taught and monitor standards of delivery, ensuring that staff and students receive consistent support across the school.

How is Progress Recorded, Measured and Reviewed

At St Andrew's Academy students are baselined within their first term of arrival using the academy's bespoke framework in Effective Communication.

Assessment is ongoing and is integral within our core curriculum.

Targets and rates of progress are set and monitored for each student.

Students' EHCPs and long term goals are subject to regular review with parents/carers and other professionals and targets are set, monitored and recorded.

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Date of this version of policy : 30 January 2023

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| Author | Shirley Smith, Subject Lead |
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