



**Black Country Healthcare**  
NHS Foundation Trust

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY  
Brierley Hill Health & Social Care Centre  
Venture Way  
Brierley Hill  
West Midlands  
DY5 1RU

Tel: 01384 321375

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to inform you of the changes to the Speech and Language Therapy Service at Old Park School.

### **Current Speech and Language Therapy Service**

Currently, each child on the active Speech and Language Therapy caseload is offered one assessment in school each year in line with their EHCP annual review due to large caseload numbers within the Special School Speech and Language Therapy Service.

Following discussions with Old Park School Senior Leadership Team, we have decided to trial the service as detailed below. Starting in the Autumn Term 2021, the Speech and Language Therapy Team will begin a new way of working in school to provide Speech, Language and Communication support.

### **Specialist whole class support**

In order to support all children at Old Park School in terms of their Speech, Language and Communication Needs, we will be providing whole class support. This means that we will be working with each class one at a time to provide staff training, modelling sessions and 1:1 work with the children for a term. Following this, each child will be provided with a written summary of the input received. Whole class communication targets will be set.

Whole class interventions will be provided to each class for a term. Once this intervention has been provided, your child will be discharged from the Speech and Language Therapy Service. Children at Old Park School are in a specialist education provision where education staff have the training and skills to integrate communication development into the curriculum and everyday activities. Old Park School provide a total communication approach including access to symbols, objects and Makaton signs throughout daily activities and routines. A range of Speech, Language and Communication Needs can be met in this specialist provision. Your child will continue to receive ongoing communication support through trained staff in school, whole class interventions and whole school communication programmes which are led jointly by education staff and SLTs.

Alternatively, your child may be transferred to our Highly Specialist Caseload if a further communication need is identified (see Highly Specialist criteria below).

### **Highly Specialist support in school (active caseload)**

Some children will receive additional support in school from the Speech and Language Therapy Team if they fall within the highly specialist criteria. This applies to children who require support with:

- access to a communication aid/device
- access to other services such as Access to Communication Technology
- a stammer
- a speech sound disorder
- selective mutism
- a developmental language disorder
- transition to another provision

The children on the highly specialist caseload will change throughout the year to meet the current needs of the children at Old Park School. Therefore, your child will access highly specialist Speech and Language Therapy support as and when they need it.

If your child is on the highly specialist caseload you will be notified. Your child will receive an episode of care. They then may be discharged until further support is required. Episodes of care vary in length depending on each child's needs. Your child will continue to access whole class support and support from education staff, whether they remain on the active caseload or not.

### **Contact details**

Please contact our admin team on 01384 321375 if your contact details have changed since your last contact with our service or if your contact details change in future. This will allow us to notify you of any support your child receives in school.

### **Consent to Speech and Language Therapy Input**

If you do not wish for your child to receive support from the Speech and Language Therapy Service for specialist whole class support or highly specialist support, please contact us on 01384 321375 to withdraw your consent. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you consent to your child receiving support in school.

This new service delivery model is a trial only. If it is not successful, we will return to the previous service delivery in which we offer one annual assessment for each child on the



active caseload per year prior to their EHCP review. We will review this at the end of the academic year.

Yours Sincerely,

*Bethan Wilkes*

Special School Team Leader

*Philippa Sames*

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist