

Total Communication at the Milestone school

The Milestone school recognises that pupils, regardless of developmental stage, should be regulated and build relationships before any meaningful learning can take place. We also recognise the need to generalise acquired skills across all areas of life. Transferring skills beyond the classroom is a key goal.

Our Total Communication approach aims to:

- Encourage the inclusion of all pupils
- Support pupils to reach their full communication potential
- Encourage the whole school community to communicate together
- Ensure all pupils have a voice and can be understood

Intent

Communication is a **fundamental skill** and every pupil has the **right** to develop their communication.

Through development of a Total Communication Approach, Milestone wants communication, at every level, to be valued. Milestone wants every pupil to:

- Have a 'voice' – be able to communicate and be heard
- Take ownership of their communication
- Develop transferable communication skills
- Gain increased confidence, improve their mental well-being and become more independent
- Leave Milestone with a recognisable means of communication

Milestone values all modes of communication (including behaviours) but staff model the use of conventional means to ensure pupils.

Implementation

- All pupils to have, as minimum, one EHCP outcome from the Communication pathway, the Speaking and Listening strand of the English pathway or from a Speech and Language Therapist
- Whole school communication approaches to be consistently used (insert document link)
- Consistent training across the school and for new starters. Specific training to suit phase or class need
- Have, as a minimum, daily opportunities to communicate
- A clear route for NHS SaLT referrals
- Access to Communication Interventions as deemed appropriate
- Information to be shared with parents
- Opportunities to practice new skills in a range of environments and with a range of adults
- Differentiation of approaches based on need
- Every pupil working at levels 1-6 or using an AAC will have a communication passport
- Clear guidance for use of resources
- Communication will be valued across all curriculum areas

Impact

- Pupils will reach their full communication potential
- Staff will better understand pupils' communication needs
- Staff will be increasingly confident in Total Communication
- Pupils will have skills that are transferable to their next stages
- Pupils will have an ability to manage areas of their own communication needs
- Improved regulation
- Improved relationships between adults and pupils and improved friendships between pupils
- Improved mental well-being for pupils
- Pupil will feel confident using their preferred means of communication