Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) Support is available in Hertfordshire

Who are the team for SLCN?

We are specialists in Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and offer support to Hertfordshire settings where a parent or professional has concerns about a child or young person’s development in this area.

What are Speech, Language and Communication Needs?

Speech: This is the ability to make speech sounds clearly

Language: This is how a child or young person (CYP) understands and uses words and sentences

Communication: Is how we use language for interacting with others and also includes body language and other non-verbal skills

Speech, language and communication are important because from an early age we need to:

- Say what we need
- Say what we like or don’t like
- Talk about what is around us
- Get on with others

Speech, Language and Communication are important for learning because we need to:

- Learn on our own and learn with others
- Learn to read
- Learn social skills
- Learn about making friends
- Learn to understand and talk about feelings and emotions

Information for parents is available at: Talking Point

Who can access SLCN support?

Professionals across Hertfordshire have access to training to support their understanding of how SLCN links to learning. They will monitor progress of speech, language and communication skills of children and young people carefully, and ask for advice from a multi-disciplinary team of professionals, including: Speech and Language Therapy Services, the Educational Psychology Services, and Specialist Advisory Teachers, including those working in Base Provision.

All professionals work together to support a 3 tier model of service for SLCN - universal, targeted and specialist services, for all children and young people (CYP), 0-25. The tiered model is:
- **Universal** level: Support will focus on advice and guidance to schools and settings, with the aim of supporting early identification and preventing language difficulties having an impact on learning and/or socialising
- **Targeted**: Support will provide early intervention for children at risk of not learning and/or socialising because of language difficulties.
- **Specialist**: Support will be for those identified as needing assessment and intervention from the Speech and Language Therapy service. Staff in settings, and parents, will need to follow programmes of intervention to support the child or young person to achieve their agreed targets.

When children and young people with SLCN are learning, professionals will ensure:

- Learners understand expectations and learning outcomes
- Learners receive feedback, guidance for next steps and praise, with regular opportunities for self-evaluation
- New words are explained, with opportunities for learners to use new words, as well as using any appropriate visual support
- Language used is clear, at a correct pace, with time for listening and questions
- Learners are able to talk about what they have learned and what their next steps will be

**How do I access support for SLCN?**

This service is universal and available to all parents and professionals who may have concerns regarding a child’s or young person’s development of speech, language and communication skills. In addition, a young person over 16 may self-refer if they have concerns regarding their speech, language or communication skills.

Useful first links are [Hertfordshire’s Family Centres](#), which offer a wide range of information and Drop-In clinics. If you are concerned about the language development of a pre-school child you will find information [here](#)

Websites offering further information are:

- [The Communication Trust](#)
- [What Works for SLCN](#)
- [AFASIC](#)
- [Stammering](#)
- [Makaton](#)

Guidance for settings on identification of SLCN is available in the form of leaflets and posters, for display and distribution.

**The SLCN Quality Offer** sets out how schools in Hertfordshire are expected to support SLCN and the approaches and resources that can help them.
Individual schools can explain how they are supporting pupils and their families through their SEND Information Report which you can find on their school website.

Following good practice for SEND, a cycle of **Assess, Plan, Do, Review** will be used to support intervention. All Hertfordshire settings have a link to a contact Educational Psychologist and specialist advisory teachers in **Integrated Services for Learning (ISL)**, as well as a link **Speech and Language Therapist**.

The diagram below shows the process of the graduated response:

![Diagram showing the process of the graduated response](image)

**What happens next?**

You will be kept informed at each stage of the process by: feedback from the SENCo; direct feedback from the Speech and Language Therapy Services (which may also include follow-up strategies to support SLCN); and feedback from any professional who has assessed or worked with your child. You can read more about the graduated response and SEN Support [here](#).

**Other Provision**

Most children and young people with SLCN will have their needs met in their local mainstream school or setting, sometimes with additional support. A few children who do not make progress may need a more detailed assessment through an **Education, Health and Needs assessment**. A small number of children with SLCN may need specialist provision.

There is some provision for children and young people with complex SLCN and EHCPs in Speech and Language Bases hosted in local Primary and Secondary schools. Depending on capacity, Bases may also offer support and training for SLCN.
Currently, these are located across Hertfordshire as seen on this map and below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hillshott Infants School</td>
<td>Letchworth</td>
<td>Ridge Avenue, Letchworth SG6 1QE Tel: 01462 621212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Diamond Primary School</td>
<td>Stevenage</td>
<td>Whitehorse Lane, Stevenage SG1 6NH Tel: 01438 219410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giles Nursery and Infants' School</td>
<td>Stevenage</td>
<td>Durham Road, Stevenage SG1 4JQ Tel: 07808 138982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flamstead End Primary</td>
<td>Cheshunt</td>
<td>Longfield Lane, Waltham Cross EN7 6AG Tel: 01992 308888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downfield JMI School</td>
<td>Cheshunt</td>
<td>Downfield Road Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, Herts EN8 8SS Tel: 01992 629598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onslow St Audrey’s School - Secondary</td>
<td>Hatfield</td>
<td>Old Rectory Drive, Hatfield AL10 8AB Tel: 01707 264228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowley Hill School – KS1 and KS2 Bases</td>
<td>Borehamwood</td>
<td>Winstre Road, Borehamwood WD6 5DP Tel: 020 8953 2218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauncey Wood JMI</td>
<td>Harpenden</td>
<td>Pickford Hill, Harpenden AL5 5HL Tel: 01582 621514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaulden Infants &amp; Nursery School</td>
<td>Hemel Hempstead</td>
<td>School Row, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2JU Tel: 01442 264588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaulden Junior School</td>
<td>Hemel Hempstead</td>
<td>School Row, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2JU Tel: 01442 395758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longdean School – Secondary</td>
<td>Hemel Hempstead</td>
<td>Rumballs Rd, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8JB Tel: 01442 217277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Primary School-KS1 and KS2 Bases</td>
<td>Watford</td>
<td>5 Derby Road, Watford WD17 2LX Tel: 01923 225129</td>
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