

Social Stories

Intent

At River View Primary School, we use Social Stories to support children's understanding of social situations, routines, expectations and changes. Social Stories provide personalised explanations that help children understand what is happening, why it is happening and what is expected of them.

The approach is designed to reduce anxiety, increase predictability and support children to develop appropriate responses within social situations. Social Stories are particularly effective for children with autism, social communication difficulties and those who experience anxiety around change and transitions.

Implementation

Social Stories are personalised to meet the individual needs of each child. Stories are written using simple language, visual supports and positive, supportive messaging. They are shared regularly and revisited before relevant situations occur.

Principle	Purpose	Examples in Practice	Expected Outcome
Personalisation	Meet individual needs	Individual stories	Improved relevance and understanding
Visual Support	Improve accessibility	Photos, symbols and illustrations	Improved comprehension
Preparation	Reduce anxiety	Stories used before events	Increased confidence
Repetition	Reinforce learning	Regular review and discussion	Improved understanding

Examples of Activities

Area of Development	Example Activities
Transitions	Moving classes
Social Skills	Playtime expectations

Emotional Regulation	Managing feeling
New Experiences	School trips
Behaviour Expectations	Classroom routines

Impact

Children will develop increased understanding of social situations, routines and expectations. This will lead to greater confidence, reduced anxiety and improved participation in school life.

As children become more familiar with social expectations and routines, they will demonstrate increased independence, improved emotional regulation and greater success when navigating new experiences and transitions.