

AAC/Communication

Intent

At River View Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that every child has access to a functional and meaningful method of communication. We recognise that communication is a fundamental life skill and that some children require additional or alternative methods to express their wants, needs, thoughts, feelings and ideas. Through the use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), we aim to remove barriers to communication, increase independence and enable all pupils to participate fully in school life.

AAC supports the development of communication, language, social interaction and self-advocacy. By providing consistent communication opportunities and modelling the use of AAC systems throughout the school day, we seek to empower children to communicate effectively, build relationships, access learning and prepare for the next stage of their education.

Implementation

AAC and Communication Support are embedded throughout both Trent View Hub and mainstream classrooms. Staff adopt a Total Communication approach, recognising that communication may include speech, gestures, signing, symbols, communication books, communication boards and electronic devices. AAC systems are selected according to individual needs and are used consistently across learning environments.

AAC Principle	Purpose	Examples in Practice	Expected Outcome
Total Communication	Promote all forms of communication	Speech, signing, symbols and gestures used together	Increased communication opportunities
AAC Modelling	Demonstrate effective communication	Adults model AAC throughout the day	Increased confidence using AAC
Communication Opportunities	Encourage communication attempts	Choice-making and requesting opportunities	Increased spontaneous communication
Consistency	Support understanding and generalisation	Home and school use common systems	Improved communication across contexts

Impact

Children will demonstrate increased confidence and independence in communicating their needs, wants and ideas. Through consistent use of AAC systems, pupils will develop functional communication skills that reduce frustration and increase participation in both learning and social situations.

As communication skills develop, children will demonstrate greater engagement within the curriculum, improved relationships with peers and adults and increased independence. Effective communication will enable pupils to access learning more successfully and prepare for future educational and life experiences.