

Communication

At Rachel Madocks School we offer a number of different forms of communication aids to support the different needs of our students. The communication tools we have at school are as follows:

Object Cues

Object cues are everyday objects from daily activities used as cues for those activities. The communicative cues are made with objects that are presented to students.

Tactile Signing for Sensory Learners

TaSSeLs is a form of body signing. It is a system of touch cues or adapted signs to help understanding, anticipation, and to alert the student that something is going to happen. The body signs are done in two different ways, according to the needs of the child: hand under hand, or on body

Augmentative and Alternative Communication AAC

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) is a range of strategies and tools to help people who struggle with speech. These may be simple letter or picture boards or sophisticated computer-based systems. AAC helps someone to communicate as effectively as possible, in as many situations as possible.

Positive Looking

Positive looking is a strategy used to develop eyesight. Teachers assess students on the areas in which they need to work on for example, tracking. There are 12 different areas covered in positive looking with 14 steps within those. Students working on this program will work on these targets regularly.

Sensory Symbols

Sensory symbols are tactile symbols where different materials and textures are stuck on them. Sensory symbols support students with visual impairment and it enables them to recognise familiar words.

Aided Language Boards (ALB's)

An aided language board is a symbol board that has a range of relevant vocabulary for a specific event or activity. The aim of using aided language boards is to increase the range of vocabulary that students can understand and use. It is also to widen the range of purposes for communication for example they can request (e.g. 'I want the ball'), they can comment (e.g. 'this is fun') or they could let you know that they want the activity to end (e.g. 'finished').

Makaton

Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression.

Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD)

Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) is normally a book or device that contains symbols and words to support communication between people with complex communication needs and their communication partners.

Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)

The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) is an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) system (i.e a communication method other than speech) that involves the physical exchange of pictures to communicate with another person for the purpose of requesting or commenting.