

## **REPORT OF PUPIL PREMIUM USAGE 2016-17**

At Highshore School, we seek to raise the achievements of all the pupils not only academically but within specific areas of communication, independence, self-help skills and preparation for their lives beyond school. This involves taking a holistic approach utilizing the support of families and allied professionals. We look to whole school training from our therapists so that all staff may be better able to meet the diverse range of learning needs.

The school received Pupil Premium funding in the financial year 2016/17 of £58936 an increase of £6916 on the previous year (+13.29%). It is anticipated that we will receive £61710 in 2017/18. These increases are due to roll numbers and the demand for places.

### **SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPISTS**

Highshore students receive in-house Speech and Language Therapy support from Tony Caldwell and Becky Roberts/Andrea Curling. In May 2017/18 Becky left us and was replaced by Andrea. Due to our rising roll and consequential demand we increased SALT provision to 8 days a week (from 6), with Andrea providing 5 and Tony 3 days. We have ceased our outreach provision in recognition of the demands here. In addition, we regularly provide placements to student SALTs as colleges recognise our good practice.

Details of the provision is available in school whether individual, small groups or class. The SALT team carry out assessments of all new students and appropriate strategies implemented.

Interventions focus on Attention and Listening, Social Interaction, Understanding of Language, Use of Language and Speech.

Individualised strategies are employed by staff to support our young people who have complex communication disorders with clear evidence of progression in the areas targeted.

In addition to focusing on communication development, a strong emphasis is placed upon using strategies to facilitate our pupils to fully access the curriculum, improve parents' ability to support their children and assist in transitioning.

To this extent, the Highshore Speech and Language Therapy team provide training sessions for staff and parents, looking at the use of visual supports such as symbols and signing (Makaton) to support the students' communication in all environments. We have developed strong links with the Makaton Charity.

For pupils who are transitioning to another setting, our speech and language therapists have liaised with colleges and external services to ensure that our leavers are appropriately supported into adult services and colleges.

### **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST**

We currently have one day per week Occupational Therapy via the local health service. The OT's role is to support the pupils in being as independent and productive as possible in their daily activities. This has involved giving advice on:

- Pupils' posture and orientation to their work at their desk.
- Building fine motor skills.
- Equipment to compensate for impairments in hand function, posture etc, e.g. pencil grips, writing slopes, cutlery with shaped handles.
- Promoting self-care skills, e.g. dressing, eating lunch.
- Pencil control and handwriting.
- Visual perceptual difficulties.
- Staff training on the installation and usage of a hoist

- Sensory strategies to help the pupils maintain a calm and alert state for learning.

The OT regularly assesses students on a 1:1 basis, works alongside the Speech and Language therapists and makes detailed recommendations for specific pupils. New students joining us are assessed for OT support.

### **Funding**

Pupil Premium funding is never sufficient to cover the costs of our Allied Health Professionals. Consequently, the school uses its core budget to support the costs as we are committed to these programmes and the provision being available to all the students that would benefit.