

Speech and Language Therapy at Woodside Academy

Who are the Speech and Language Therapy team?

The Speech and Language Therapy team at Woodside School includes Oxleas NHS therapists Sarah Tammadge, Nicky Teoh and Emily Parham. We also now have Speech and Language Assistant Katie Brennan working with us. We work with children and young people with communication difficulties and support their needs by providing assessment, advice and therapy.

How do you work?

Our team is based at Woodside Academy. There is at least one member of the team on-site each day of the week. We are accessible to the children and young people, teachers and school staff on a daily basis. We work closely together with the teachers and teaching assistants to get a holistic picture of the students' needs, provide advice, discuss support strategies and put in place interventions across the school.

What does Speech and Language Therapy support look like at Woodside Academy?

At Woodside, our team work in very close collaboration with school staff and our health colleagues such as Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists and our education colleagues such as Specialist Teacher from Bexley Local Authority. We work together and share our expertise, knowledge and resources to achieve our joint goal of providing customised support for each individual student.

Our work includes a mix of

- **direct work with the students**, where we see them individually or in small groups, and
- **indirect work**, where we observe students in the classroom, discuss students with school staff and parents/ carers and advise on Speech and Language Therapy techniques and strategies

Many students at Woodside Academy can access universal and target provision only. Some students may also require specialist provision with the Speech and Language Therapist.

Universal Provision:

- School staff support speech, language and communication development as part of daily curriculum and school life, using universal strategies, including Total Communication support strategies (visuals at the appropriate level for your child etc). Through visits to class and discussions with class staff the Speech and Language Therapist can offer advice on these support strategies
- School staff adapt their language and learning activities in line with your child's level of understanding. Again, the Speech and Language team can offer feedback following observation/discussion to ensure language to ensure this
- Access to a structured and routine environment where staff have specialist knowledge and training in social communication and language needs. Regular training opportunities are offered throughout the year. Training is also available on request
- Termly teacher discussion and agreement on the communication target within Personal Learning Plan (PLP). The Speech and Language Therapists meets with your child's class teacher at a designated time each term to review and agree a target and how that target could be met. The targets are communicated to parents/carers via the home-school contact book

Targeted Provision:

- Interventions are offered at Woodside to support identified areas of need which may be delivered in a 1:1, small group or as a small class. The training offered as part of the Universal Provision (described above) enables these targeted interventions to take place. These interventions are delivered by designated education staff trained to work with children and young people who have language and learning needs and ASD. Any intervention offered will be delivered throughout the academic year and included in class lessons, where possible. Communication targets linked to this intervention will be monitored by the teacher/designated education staff.

If the extensive universal and targeted offer at Woodside meets your child's communication needs then we will discharge them from the Speech and Language Therapy Service. If your child needs support in addition to the universal and targeted offer then they will access the provision described below.

Specialist Direct Provision:

This will always include annual assessment and contribution to annual review.

It may also include small group, paired or 1:1 sessions with the Speech and Language Therapist. This is based on need and reviewed as part of each Annual Review. We will quantify the number of hours of support needed and add this to section F of the Education, Health and Care Plan.

When will you see my child?

We like to meet all new students during their first term at Woodside. We will use their Education, Health and Care Plan to guide the frequency of direct/indirect support. Setting up communication devices and shaping the environment, including staff training, is always our priority. When your child leaves school at Year 11 or Year 13 they will be discharged from the Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service.

How will the speech and language therapy targets fit in with what my child is doing in class?

We will discuss targets for your child with the class teacher and teaching assistants at our termly Personal Learning Plan (PLP) Communication Target meetings as well as in the lead up to their annual review and at any other times stipulated within section F of the Education, Health and Care Plan.

How will I know what you are doing with my child?

You may be sent information or contacted by telephone at the following intervals:

- after the first assessment
- before a block of therapy
- after a block of therapy.

The therapist will also write a report for your child's Annual Review, unless your child has been discharged. Please look out for any offers of parent training via Parent Mail/The Woodside Way

How can you be contacted?

You can reach us via the Oxleas Single Point of Access (SPA)

Telephone: 020 3004 0092

E: oxl-tr.bexleyscs-spa@nhs.net

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