

Language and communication policy

Mission Statement

We acknowledge and value the languages and cultures of our school community, and work in partnership with mainstream staff and families.

In our teaching and learning programme we focus on a Total Communication style including English, BSL and SSE. We:

- provide full access to the curriculum through communication styles suited to the needs of individual pupils.
- aim for child appropriate fluency in BSL and English to promote pupils' confidence and empower them to make life choices.
- maximise listening skills by ensuring consistent and appropriate use of amplification.
- encourage and support all school staff to become Deaf Aware, to ensure that deaf children are fully included throughout their time at Summerside Primary Academy.

Education Philosophy

We recognise the importance of children developing a positive self-image as deaf members of the community.

We recognise the status, role and contribution of BSL and deaf people in the education of our pupils.

We use Spoken English, BSL and SSE to access the curriculum, maximising social, emotional and academic levels.

We aim at age-appropriate competence in BSL and / or English. We recognise the importance of Early Years provision including BSL, English and home languages.

We work in partnership with parents and aim for families to have access to deaf adults and BSL from Nursery.

We recognise and value the importance of BSL, English and community Languages

We aim to develop spoken English for communicating in the community.

We provide a language rich environment through effective communicative and curriculum delivery.

We have high expectations for children's achievements.

We maximise children's listening skills by ensuring consistent, and appropriate use of amplification and by providing training in using it effectively.

Practice

The curriculum is delivered by class teachers in Spoken English and by Communicators and Deaf Instructors in BSL, SSE and spoken English

BSL signs may be used to support spoken English.

We give extra curricular

- Specialist lessons on written and spoken English for children who need it
- Listening activities
- Use of voice / speech practice
- Visual phonics
- Deaf studies

Finger spelling including BSL patterns is practised regularly and is used for spelling. All children and staff have sign names.

All children are taught BSL grammar / Linguistics by a Deaf Tutor.

Most of our deaf children require the curriculum to be delivered principally through spoken English. However, some children, need full English speech patterns, with BSL support. We therefore recognise the need for flexibility in communication approach based on each child's individual needs and preferences.

Early Years

The Foundation Stage team, Deaf tutor, Teachers of the Deaf and Communication Support workers work collaboratively to provide a sign language rich environment alongside the spoken English environment. The children learn through play, story telling and specific language activities while following the Foundation Curriculum in Nursery and Reception.

Age appropriate BSL signs will be taught to all nursery staff who are not on the deaf team so that sign communication will be used by all staff. These staff will use BSL signs to enhance their spoken English in communicating with deaf children.

Updated January 2021 by Kerry White