

The Therapies



Brookfields
Specialist SEN School



Speech & Language Group

What do we do?

At Brookfields School, communication is a fundamental skill required by every pupil and young person. We believe that it is every pupil's right to develop their own communication skills as fully and as competently as possible; it is their right to achieve their own potential to interact with others, access the curriculum and the world around them; to be able to effectively communicate their needs, wishes and thoughts to those around them so that they are acted upon

Where appropriate, detailed multidisciplinary assessments of the pupil's communication needs are carried out, involving parents, teachers and other members of the pupil's educational team. Working in this way ensures that appropriate communication targets and strategies are agreed jointly and included as part of the pupil's life at school and at home. These targets and strategies make up part of the pupil's Individual Education Plan

Who are we?

The school's communication team is a multi-disciplinary team involving education staff and Speech and Language Therapists. Working in partnership across the school, we support by working with the whole class, or through individual and small group work. The team approach at Brookfields School ensures that our Total Communication policy is supported and developed at all level. Each class has support from the communication

team because it is crucial that pupil's communication strategies are integrated throughout all learning activities and opportunities.

Working in partnership

The Speech and Language Therapy Service works in partnership with the pupils' family in order to support continuity and consistency of approach between home and school. The communication team provides training for both staff and parents to promote the use of a wide range of communication strategies such as the use of signing, symbols, objects of reference or more high tech aids. The team run a course for parents (Communication – It Takes Two) as part of the support we offer families.

Total Communication

We follow a Total Communication approach at Brookfields School that underlines the importance of every pupil's right to communicate. This approach promotes the ethos of providing every pupil the opportunity to communicate. We use a range of communication modes at school such as:

- The written word
- Speech
- Makaton
- BSL
- Symbols
- PECS
- Photographs
- Objects of Reference
- Body Signs
- Braille
- MOON
- High tech aids e.g. iPad, iTouch, Tough Book, Big Mac, Jelly Bean Switches



Physiotherapy What do we do?

The aim of physiotherapy at Brookfields School is to support pupils to achieve physical or motor targets. This is either required by the Statement of Special Educational Needs for the individual, or as recommended by the medical profession. The physiotherapy team aim to:

- Provide an individual, specialist assessment of each pupil to determine if they have a need for physiotherapy and if so, what level of input is required to fulfill that need.
- Work as part of the school's interdisciplinary team
- To take a lead/supervisory role in the physical management of specific pupils either in schools, their home or respite.
- Liaise with education staff, parents, carers and other members of the interdisciplinary team in setting and evaluating short and long term targets.
- Provide advice and/or programmes to follow in the classroom, PE lessons, etc., in order to assist education staff with the physical management of specific pupils to allow them to achieve their targets
- Provide individual treatment in school to improve gross motor skills where specialist handling and control of environment are necessary, so reducing time absent from school if the pupil had otherwise to attend a specialist centre or hospital.

The overall aim at Brookfields School is to achieve an integrated approach to the management of the physical needs of its pupils, bringing together parents, education staff and therapists to achieve each pupil's full potential.

As physiotherapists we are involved with the MOVE programme. This is an activity based programme which uses the combined knowledge of education, therapy and family to teach pupil with physical disabilities and/or complex needs the skills of: sitting, standing, walking and transferring. The central philosophy of MOVE is that movement is the foundation for learning.

Who are we?

The physiotherapy team is an integral part of the school's interdisciplinary team providing advice, support and individual treatment programmes for pupils who have a range of physical impairments.

Occupational Therapy What do we do?

Occupational Therapy (O.T.) at Brookfields School offers an assessment and advisory service to those pupils who have O.T on their Statements. The assessment that the OT carries out focuses on identifying appropriate strategies, support and equipment to help the pupil access all areas of the curriculum.

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Assessment may include the use of standardised and non-standardised tests, information gathering from parents, teachers and others involved in the pupil's life. Following the assessment a report is produced that includes recommendations which can be carried out mainly at school or at home.

How do we do it?

The O.T. works closely with the teaching staff to develop appropriate strategies to enable the pupil to optimise his/her potential when carrying out activities of daily living. In this way, the pupil feels a sense of achievement and control over their environment.

Any intervention recommended is provided through treatment programmes carried out by school staff, equipment recommendations and adaptations to school:

O.T. at Brookfields covers the following areas;

- Self-care and independent living skills
- Gross motor and movement ability
- Fine motor skills and ability to use hands to manipulate objects (handwriting, using scissors, knife/fork etc.)
- Sensory processing skills
- Assistive and adaptive equipment
- Switch use
- Upper limb splinting
- Specialist seating equipment

Massage & Aromatherapy

We use massage and aromatherapy for pupils and young people to augment their already tailored curriculum. Aromatherapy is carried out by a trained and qualified Aromatherapist. The aim of the Aromatherapist is to develop a trusting and open path of communication with the pupil to enable both to engage in a shared experience. We find that pupils with complex communication needs gain a great deal from this approach. The Aromatherapist is also able to support the pupil's concentration and attention span; to stimulate or relax the pupil's limbs and, in some cases, improve the pupil's general wellbeing.

For further information, please call the school on 0118 9421382.

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