

Special Schools Outreach – Ellen Tinkham



Outreach Overview

Who are we?

A Federation of two special schools, specialising in teaching learners with SLD, PMLD and Complex Needs.

What is our aim?

To support pupils with EHCPs (Primary need C&L) to be successful in mainstream settings

To increase and develop staff skills confidence in meeting Cognition and Learning needs at EHCP level.

Where are we working?

Primary & Secondary Mainstream settings, Maintained & Academy, across Devon

Who are we working with?

Schools who have requested support with meeting Cognition & Learning needs of pupils with EHCPs.

What is our outreach offer?

- Free for schools !
- A time limited and agreed, bespoke package for the learner/s in your setting.
- A way for school to develop a clear idea of what needs to be provided now and next for their learners with SEND – providing sustainable solutions.
- Working to support schools and parents to feel more confident about meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND in Devon's mainstream schools.
- Shared resources

What does our offer look like?

Identifying core learning and strategies to maximise working memory capacity

Providing ideas and structures to promote sensory regulation

Guidance with developing an accessible curriculum

Strategies for reducing cognitive overload throughout the day

Sharing of communication resources and strategies

Personalising visual supports that enhance access to learning

Improving independence in the classroom

Guidance with assessment

Schools views

"We are more confident with knowing how to respond to the learners changing needs when in a busy mainstream classroom."

"We accessed your outreach service and found the advice incredibly helpful not only for the learner you observed in school, but to enhance our school offer across the school".

"Helen was great and we have followed up all her actions."

The visit has increased ... confidence and positivity.

"We are responding to the child's voice and wishes which has been a big shift...The learner is pleased that their voice recognised and acted upon"

Case study – Mid Devon Primary School

- School requested support to meet the complex needs of a learner with an EHCP who was not accessing learning within the classroom, and therefore not making good progress against cognition and learning outcomes of EHCP.
- Visit from a ET specialist teacher - pupil was observed, and use of specialist communication resources modelled. A written report was provided, along with communication resources and a review meeting 6 weeks later.
- School feedback reported increased staff confidence and improved understanding of pupils needs and strategies to improve pupil's learning.



Getting in touch

- Email swssta@ellentinkham.devon.sch.uk to request a referral form