

Solihull Specialist Inclusion Support Service (SISS)

Children's Services and Skills Directorate
Children and Young People's SEND 0 – 25 Service
Solihull Specialist Inclusion Support Service (SISS)

Pathway for Supporting Speech, Language and Communication Needs

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-family-support/localoffer/SLCD-team>



In Solihull, it is a priority that Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) are supported in our schools at universal and targeted levels, and that specialist High Needs Support is accessed in a timely way where appropriate, to ensure that all students can access learning, develop their communication skills, and receive early intervention. This multi-level approach is to ensure that every child receives the appropriate level of support to thrive and achieve their full potential.



The role of the school - providing universal support

To support pupils with SLCN, the school can offer a range of support which may include:

- Creating **Communication-Friendly Environments** for all pupils.
- Providing whole school SLCN training for staff to develop **staff knowledge and expertise** in identifying and supporting SLCN.
- Identifying a staff member to access SISS training to become a **Communication Lead Practitioner**.
- Using **school based language screens**, checklists and observations for **early identification** of delays or gaps in speech and language development.
- Ensuring children with SLCN have access to **multisensory learning** and opportunities to **develop vocabulary**.
- Embedding **whole-school strategies** to ensure children with SLCN make consistent progress, as outlined in the [Local Offer](#).
- **Collaborating with families** to share strategies and resources that support learning at home.
- Partnering with **specialist teachers and speech and language therapists** to improve classroom practices and facilitate early identification of SLCN.



The role of the school - providing targeted support

As part of a **Graduated Approach** for supporting SLCN, some pupils will require further targeted support to help them progress, beyond universal strategies. This support is tailored to address specific challenges students face in developing their communication skills and may involve:

- Referral to **Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)** for additional specialist advice and support.
- Referral to **SISS Communication and Learning Difficulties Team (CLD)** for targeted language and learning assessments.
- **Small group evidence based interventions** led by trained teaching assistants or specialists that focus on developing specific aspects of communication, such as understanding vocabulary and key concepts, sentence structure, or social communication skills.
- **Additional Adult Support** to work closely with students on specific personalised communication goals linked to developing speech and language.



The role of the Speech, Language and Communication High Needs team - providing specialist High Needs Support

After receiving targeted support, some children identified with significant speech and/or language difficulties may require High Needs Support, if they are not making good progress. The SISS Speech, Language and Communication High Needs (SLC HN) Team are a team of experienced practitioners with a specialism in SLC who offer a High Needs educational non-traded advisory service to support children and young people with severe or significant difficulty with speech and/or language. They work collaboratively to upskill school staff and parents and offer bespoke High Needs Support directly to children. They aim to empower children so that they can achieve positive outcomes and make progress.



How can High Needs Support from the SLC HN team be accessed?

If a child has been identified with SLC as their main barrier by a NHS or private Speech and Language Service, or a CLD language assessment indicates a significant speech and/or language difficulty that impact them daily, then the school or SALT can refer to the SLC team for High Needs Support. Evidencing assessment, progress, screening tools and intervention over time, the SENCo can complete a [SISS referral](#) for SLC High Needs Support and complete a [HN triage form](#), with supporting evidence attached. If the child is already known to SISS, a request for SLC High Needs Support can be made.

When a child has accessed SLC High Needs Support, the team will offer additional support at significant transition points throughout their education.



Referrals to the SLC team for High Needs Support are discussed at a panel and the following outcomes are possible:

High Needs Support-Virtual Consultation



- A virtual consultation with SENCo will be held to review the graduated approach and evidence provided.
- Parent views will be gained.
- Support can be given to school and parents to implement advice from speech and language services.
- Recommendations will be given and a date set for a High Needs Observation and Advice visit in school, after an agreed period of review.

High Needs Observation and Advice



- Following the agreed period of review, a specialist teacher will visit school complete observations, assessments, make recommendations and set targets for the child.
- An Inclusion Support Practitioner (ISP) may then be deployed to complete a 6 session block of work, upskilling staff and the family and supporting the child.
- After an initial block of intervention with an ISP, the school will continue working on the targets set. Following a review of the child's progress, a further block of High Needs Support can be requested.

Support for pupils with an EHCP



- The SLC HN team can offer advice to the setting, the child and the family for pupils with an EHCP, where SLC is a main area of need.
- This may involve a High Need Observation and Advice visit, as above and some support from an ISP to upskill staff within the school.
- This support can be accessed by submitting a [SLC HN Triage form](#).

Bishop Wilson SLC ARP



- Following High Needs Support from the SLC HN team, a placement at [Bishop Wilson Additionally Resourced Provision](#) for primary aged children with significant SLC as their primary area of need may be explored.
- The provision is directly managed by Solihull Local Authority and is staffed and resourced by the Specialist Inclusion Support Service SLC HN team.
- It is for pupils with Speech, Language and Communication difficulties as their primary need, who require intensive small group teaching to make good progress.



For more information, visit the [SISS SLC Local Offer](#)