

Speech & Language Therapy: FAQs

How does therapy work at Newingate School?

When pupils join Newingate School, a consent form will be included in your induction pack. The Speech and Language Therapist then completes a Baseline Assessment, which may include observations, formal and informal assessments, and meetings with teachers and parents/carers. A report is shared outlining the next steps.

If Speech and Language input is specified in the student's EHCP, or a need is identified in school, support will be provided via the specialist or targeted pathway. If there is no need identified, the student will be placed on the universal pathway.

Does everyone get Speech and Language Therapy?

All students are supported by the Speech and Language therapist, but some pupils need more support than others. Following the initial assessment, the Speech and Language Therapist will determine the most appropriate support for your child. This could be through class-based strategies delivered by the class team with advice and training from the therapy teams, or in some cases, regular therapy sessions. These steps, including their targets, are typically included in the assessment reports, or an email will be sent.

Will my child's NHS therapy continue?

It depends on your child's needs. If your child was previously seen by a Therapist in the NHS, in most cases their care will transfer to Newingate School Speech and Language Therapy. The therapist will liaise with NHS colleagues to find out more about your child and their current targets.

You may receive ongoing support from the NHS if your child's needs fall outside the remit of school-based provision (e.g. feeding and swallowing).

My child's EHCP states that at their current school/ placement, they need a specific number of speech therapy sessions. Will these be offered at Newingate School?

As a specialist setting, Newingate School trains all class staff members to support students' communication. Therefore, sometimes the recommendations in an EHCP, e.g. "6 sessions of Speech and Language Therapy", are no longer relevant. Students receive daily support, embedded into their day, delivered by our classroom staff. For this reason, the therapist may speak to you about changing the wording in your child's EHCP to reflect the support provided in this setting.

Who will my child see?

Initial and review assessments are carried out by our qualified Speech and Language Therapist, who is employed directly by the school. The therapist is on-site 3 days a week and can be contacted when off-site.

How often will my child be seen by the Speech and Language Therapist?

This depends on your child's needs and the level of support they receive.

The therapist aims to complete the baseline assessment within two terms from when your child first joins, allowing time for the student to settle. If your child is on a reduced timetable, this may take up to three terms.

How often do you speak to parents?

The Speech and Language Therapist will contact parents/carers following the initial assessment. After this, the therapist will contact you when there is a change in your child's support level or their targets need reviewing. Families are always offered the opportunity to meet and discuss reports with the Speech and Language Therapist. The therapist may attend Annual EHCP reviews to provide a summary of progress and provision.