



NORTHWOOD
PRIMARY SCHOOL

...growing success

**Resource Base for
Speech, Language and
Communication Needs
September 2020**

Welcome to Northwood Primary School!

Welcome to Northwood Primary school, and more specifically our Resource Base for Speech, Language and Communication (this is commonly known as the SLB). Northwood is an exciting, friendly and fun place to learn; we would love for you to join us here!

With our Speech, Language and Communication Resource Base, we really are an inclusive school. We have excellent behaviour, kind peers and positive, respectful relationships. Our staff promise is to give you an excellent education, within a school with a great family atmosphere.

We understand that it can be difficult to decide whether to move your child from their local area to access more specialist provision. Therefore we have produced this guide to answer some of the questions which you may have as a parent looking to join our school.



We hope you find this guide useful; should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us - our details are included at the end of this guide.



What is a Resource Base?

Our Resource Base is part of a mainstream school, which has enhanced resources and staffing, in order to meet the needs of children who have a significant Speech, Language and/or Communication Delay/Disorder.

Children entering the school through the Resource Base are added to our school roll the same as any other child. They are taught in mainstream classrooms and receive additional support from the experienced and highly trained staff in the SLB.



Why might my child be offered a place in Northwood Primary School Resource Base and who decides?

Each Resource Base in Darlington has its own specialism, with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) being that of Northwood. In order for this setting to be recommended for your child, speech, language and/or communication must be identified as their primary need. The decision to offer a place is made by a panel of specialists in the field of SLCN. They allocate places in conjunction with the Local Authority. Your child may already attend another school. In this case, the current school will provide evidence to the panel, along with parental, Educational Psychology and Speech and Language Therapy views in order for the panel to form a well founded decision.

What would a typical day be like for my child?

8:45am	Children arrive at school
8:55am	Registration in classroom
9:00am	Phonics/Group Reading*
9:30am	English*
10:15am	School Assembly
10:30am	Play time
10:45am	Maths*
12:00	Lunchtime

* These lessons are in mainstream classrooms, staff from the Resource Base offer additional support during these whole class sessions.

Afternoon - Your child will experience a range of foundation subjects including Topic / PE / Science / Music / Computing / RE / MFL.

At some point during the afternoon your child will receive a 1:1 SLC session located in the SLB. This is when they will focus on their individual targets.

3:30pm Home time. Child takes their pack home which includes a home-school book with notes from the Resource Base staff, this supports parents understanding of the week's events and learning.

There is an expectation that parents work with Resource Base staff, to help their child achieve their SLC targets. We encourage doing a small amount of speech and language work each night - fun activities and games can be located in your child's pack.



What happens during a SLC session?

1:1 Session

Each afternoon your child will receive a SLC session, which is located in the Resource Base. This is a 1:1 session focused on individual targets. Alongside SLC, the Resource Base staff target key skills such as phonics and reading, this supports the children's academic progress.



Here at Northwood Primary School, the SLC sessions we provide follow a topic based approach. Wherever possible, children's individual speech, language and communication targets are linked to the themes they are covering in class. This enables us to provide pre-teach sessions and explore subject specific vocabulary. This is also an opportunity to revisit previous learning and consolidate the knowledge which has been taught in class. As a result of this approach, the therapy we provide is relevant and links to the national curriculum; whilst focusing on specific aspects of speech, language and communication.

Speech Therapist Session

We have access to an on-site Speech and Language Therapist one morning a week. Our current Therapist is Krisiti Eddy, she sees the children for monitoring and ongoing assessment purposes.

Group session

On a Friday afternoon the children in the Resource Base are brought together for a group session. The games and activities they participate in are based around their individual targets. This provides an opportunity for the children to socialise, build relationships and generalise their new skills into their everyday talking. The children are proud to be part of the SLB family, as we provide a supportive and caring environment.

What 'enhancements' are available at Northwood to meet the needs of my child?

Speech, language and communication is at the heart of our entire school. We are committed to achieving the best possible outcomes for all of our children, and work hard to ensure that the needs of pupils with SLCN are met.

The Resource Base is organised as follows:

Staff	Role
Mrs Sarah Wassell	Resource Base Manager
Miss Laura Robinson	SENCo
Mrs Popple	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Miss Douthwaite	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Kristi Eddy	Speech and Language Therapist

Our school has:

- A dedicated Resource Base Manager and SENCo to oversee the provision for all children with additional needs across the school.
- Experienced and highly qualified staff in the field of SLCN to directly support children in the Resource Base.
- Access to an on site Speech and Language Therapist one morning a week.
- Clear systems for developing skills taught in the Resource Base across the curriculum, ensuring your child is always well supported and appropriately challenged.
- A family ethos, where each child and their needs are understood by the school community.
- A Head Teacher fully committed to the inclusion of all children.
- Regular parental engagement events and an open door policy.

How would my child be assessed and would we be informed?

We carefully assess your child using a range of assessments. When your child enters our school, their current attainment is assessed to give us a 'baseline' from where your child will progress. We always communicate the outcome of these assessments using written reports or through parents' evenings. Some assessments are:

- Speech and Language Therapy Assessments - which focus on speech sound production, as well as expressive and receptive language.
- Educational Psychology Assessments - which may include memory, understanding, reasoning, logic and general skills assessments.
- Ongoing assessment. These assessments are comprehensive in all aspects of school life, with some additions for children attending our 'base'. These include :
 - Reading, writing, maths assessments
 - Phonics and spelling assessments
 - Social and Emotional assessments
 - Additional assessments relevant to your child's needs

Your child's school achievements may be assessed against the age-related levels expected for children who are working on the National Curriculum, or they may be assessed against other measures for children who are not ready to work on National Curriculum (ie the steps before National Curriculum).

Aspirational targets are set for all children within our school.

We expect every child to achieve their full potential.



Will my child sit external tests such as SATS?

As with everything related to your child in school, the answer is individual. If your child is able to access the Year 1 Phonic Screening, Year 2 SATs, or Year 6 SATs, they will be supported appropriately. However, if your child is not able to access these assessments, due to very complex needs, they will not be expected to complete them, and their achievements and progress will be measured using school data.



How long will my child stay in the Resource Base?

Again, this very much depends on the needs of your child. Generally, our Resource Base offers a two year placement. Some children attend our school, make fabulous progress and no longer require the enhanced provision. More often than not, children exit the Resource Base but choose to remain with us throughout their primary years. They can of course return to their local primary school, in which case we carefully plan a smooth transition, to ensure that children are confident and ready to return to their original setting.



Who are my main points of contact if I have any questions or queries?

Mrs Zoe Beach - Head Teacher

Mrs Sarah Wassell - Resource Base Manager/Deputy Head Teacher

Miss Laura Robinson - SENCo

Mrs Karen Popple / Miss Amy Douthwaite -
Resource Base Higher Level Teaching Assistants

Kristi Eddy - Speech and Language Therapist

Contact details:

Northwood Primary School
Pendleton Road South
Darlington
DL1 2HF

TEL : 01325 267222

admin@northwoodprimary.org.uk

www.northwoodprimary.org.uk



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