

# HERTFORDSHIRE'S DESCRIPTORS OF NEED PRIMARY

COGNITION AND LEARNING
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE
COMMUNICATION AND AUTISM
SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

# Cognition and Learning defined

#### **Cognition and Learning defined**

Cognitive processes are mental processes that involve thinking and reasoning, attention, memory, language, problem solving, decision making and a child or young person 's understanding of the social world (social cognition).

Learning refers to the child or young person's acquisition and application of previous and new knowledge and skills.

#### **Terminology**

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD): categorised into 2 types of behavioural problems: inattentiveness, and hyperactivity and impulsiveness (see FID, Artemis, 2012).

**Complex** – the child or young person has **more than two** co-occurring, life-long difficulties which affect cognition, social and emotional and development and learning independent life-skills.

**Extensive:** across several domains of cognition and learning.

Frequency: (see FID) (Artemis, 2012).

**Global Developmental Delay (GDD):** an umbrella term used when children are significantly delayed in their cognitive (see TARS-CLP Artemis, 2022) and physical development. It can be diagnosed (by a medical practitioner) when a child is delayed in one or more milestones, categorised into motor skills, speech, cognitive skills, and social and emotional development. There is usually a specific condition which causes this delay, such as Fragile X syndrome or other chromosomal abnormalities (including Downs Syndrome).

**Learning Disability (LD):** reduced ability to understand new or complex information in learning new skills, with a reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning) and with a lasting effect on development (see TARS-CLP Artemis, 2022).

Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD): learning across all domains is at a slower pace than peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Attainments are well below expected levels in all or most areas of the curriculum, despite appropriate interventions (see TARS-CLP Artemis, 2022). Object Cues: objects used within an activity are used to cue the child into an event or activity.

**Objects of Reference** are used to represent activities, people or places. They may be complete objects or parts of objects.

**Persistent difficulties:** all the time and daily (see FID) (Artemis 2012).

**Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD):** pupils have severe and complex learning needs, in addition they have other significant difficulties (see TARS-CLP Artemis, 2022), such as physical disabilities or a sensory impairment. Pupils require a high level of adult support, both for their learning needs and also for personal care. They are likely to need sensory stimulation and a curriculum broken down into very small steps. Some pupils communicate by gesture, eye pointing or symbols and others by very simple language. (DfE, 2010).

Severe learning difficulties (SLD): pupils have significant intellectual or cognitive impairments (see TARS-CLP Artemis, 2022). This has a major effect on their ability to participate in the school curriculum without support. They may also have associated difficulties in mobility and coordination, communication and perception and the acquisition of self-help skills. Pupils with SLD will need support in all areas of the curriculum. They may also require teaching of self-help, independence and social skills. Some pupils may use sign and symbols, but most will be able to hold simple conversations and gain some literacy skills. (DfE,2010).

**Specific learning difficulties (SpLD):** this is an umbrella term for a certain group of learning difficulties. This includes a range of conditions such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

**Substantial/significant difficulties:** ongoing difficulties with understanding, learning and remembering new skills (see TARS-CLP Artemis, 2022). **Symbol system:** ways for representing concepts including signs, use of photographs/pictures, objects of reference, printed or spoken words.

### Speech and Language needs defined

#### **Terminology**

Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) /communication strategies are communication systems for people who are not able to speak. Signing, gestures, and books with symbols or pictures are AAC. Some AAC uses computers that can turn a form of input the child can manage into speech or writing.

#### **Language Disorders**

Language Disorders are usually associated with biomedical conditions such as: autism, epilepsy, Sensori-neural hearing loss, structural or acquired brain injury, certain neurodegenerative conditions, genetic conditions such as Down's syndrome, and cerebral palsy. Within the group of Language Disorders there is also Developmental Language Disorder

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD): This is diagnosed when children fail to acquire their own language for no obvious reason. This results in children who have difficulty understanding what people say to them, and struggle to articulate their ideas and feelings. A language disorder can exist regardless of first language. Bilingual children can also present with DLD or language disorders. A speech and language therapist can differentiate between language disorders and second language acquisition difficulties. Being "language ready for school": Children may struggle initially and not have the language they need for learning and interaction. This is not a speech and language need yet, but it can be a risk factor.

**Expressive language:** Language that is produced, spoken output, the sentences that are assembled grammar, sequence, narrative ability.

**Persistent difficulties:** Difficulties that are evident all the time and the response to intervention and support is limited or extremely slow (see FID) (Artemis 2012).

Receptive language: Accessing meaning, understanding language, and "decoding" language (comprehension)

**Social communication difficulties:** Limited social development and interaction. Difficulties with social understanding and reciprocal interaction.

**Speech sound difficulties** – is the generic term for difficulties with speech production. A Speech and Language Therapist may also diagnose a

**Speech sound disorder (SSD)**: These include disorders such as, verbal dyspraxia, articulation disorder, orofacial structural deficits, voice disorders and phonological disorders.

NB: Speech Language and Communication Needs tend not to be formally diagnosed in children in the Early Years (0-4) age range. Our understanding of the child's language abilities is more informed by development records.

## Communication (social) and Autism needs defined

Autism is a broad term and can be accompanied by additional difficulties which will contribute to its impact on a pupil's ability to access learning, to connect with others or show social reciprocity. They may struggle to make sense of or manage their environment, respond impulsively and have no inhibitors. They will struggle to acknowledge or accept direction from others. This could be due to severe learning difficulties, communication difficulties, sensory processing difficulties, mental health issues or acute anxiety, for example.

Children and young people with Autism may have severe difficulties with:

- Social interaction and communication
- · Thinking and learning
- Making choices
- Executive functioning/planning and organising
- Sensory processing
- · Auditory processing
- Central coherence (the ability to determine meaning from a collection of details)
- Self-regulation and appropriate behavioural responses

#### **Terminology**

Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC)/communication Aids: refers to systems and devices that aid communication for people who find it difficult to speak. AAC methods that don't use advanced computer technology include signing, gestures, written words, symbols and picture books.

**Complex** – the child or young person has **more than two** co-occurring, life-long difficulties which affect cognition, social and emotional and development and learning independent life-skills.

Extensive: across several domains of cognition and learning.

Frequency: (see FID) (Artemis, 2012).

Persistent difficulties: all the time and daily (see FID) (Artemis, 2012).

Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD): pupils have significant intellectual or cognitive impairments (see TARS-CLP Artemis, 2022). This has a major effect on their ability to participate in the school curriculum without support. They may also have associated difficulties in mobility and coordination, communication and perception and the acquisition of self-help skills. Pupils with SLD will need support in all areas of the curriculum. They may also require teaching of self-help, independence and social skills. Some pupils may use sign and symbols, but most will be able to hold simple conversations and gain some literacy skills. (DfE,2010).

**Substantial difficulties:** ongoing difficulties with understanding, learning and remembering new skills (see TARS-CLP Artemis, 2022). **Symbol system:** ways for representing concepts including signs, use of photographs/pictures, objects of reference, printed or spoken words.

**Voice Output Communication Aid (VOCA):** Speech-generating devices are electronic augmentative and alternative communication systems used to supplement or replace speech or writing.

- > Single Message VOCAs: A very basic switch device that speaks a recorded message when pressed.
- Message sequencer VOCAs: A series of messages in a sequence.
- > Overlay VOCAs: includes pictures, symbols or words, that are over the keys to show which one will say which message.
- > Dynamic screen devices display symbols or graphics on a screen.

# Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) defined

#### SEMH defined

Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder (Code of Practice, 2015).

#### **Terminology**

**Dangerous behaviours:** refers to behaviours that cause evidenced injury to self or others, damage to property, or committing a criminal offence. **Externalising behaviours:** challenging behaviours, restlessness, over activity, non-compliance, mood swings, impulsivity, physical aggression, verbal aggression, perceived injustices, disproportionate reaction to situations, difficulties with change/transitions, eating issues, absconding, lack of empathy, lack of personal boundaries, self-harming, poor awareness of personal space.

Frequency: (see FID) (Artemis, 2012).

**Internalising behaviours:** Anxiety, low mood, being withdrawn, avoiding risks, unable to make choices, low self-worth, isolated, refusing to accept praise, failure to engage, poor personal presentation, lethargy/apathy, daydreaming, unable to make and maintain friendships, speech anxiety, reluctance to speak, task avoidance.

Often: behaviour is common and occurs daily.

**Regularly:** behaviour is observed with constant frequency or pattern (evidenced using a behaviour log or chart).

Substantial/significant difficulties: ongoing difficulties with understanding, learning and remembering new skills (see TARS-CLP Artemis, 2022).

Level of	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and	Social, Emotional and
Support			Autism	Mental Health
Universal	Needs are well met through	Needs are well met without any	Needs are well met without any	Needs are well met through
Support	Inclusive High-Quality Teaching.	additional support.	additional support.	Inclusive High-Quality Teaching.
	The child is generally working	The child has SLCN which can be	The child can	Internalising behaviours
	within or marginally below age-	managed well in a mainstream	effectively/appropriately	The child may have some
	related expectations.	class with appropriate	communicate for social purposes.	difficulties separating from
		differentiation of tasks and	For example, indicate they want a	parent/carers (separation anxiety,
	Some difficulties with learning	modified teaching style, in line	turn in a game.	withdrawing and struggling to get
	may include some misconceptions	with Inclusive High-Quality		into school) in line with typical
	and/or taking longer to	Teaching.	The child can use functional	development.
	understand new concepts.		language to communicate their	The child may experience
			needs.	difficulties getting into school,

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Universal Support	Difficulties may be specific to one aspect of learning.	The child may have speech difficulties which can be met by the speech therapy Universal Offer.  The child would not have direct involvement from a speech and language therapist.		settling when in school or following routines, initially in the first few months.  The child may have difficulty sustaining attention in line with typical development, for example, may flit between activities.
		Teaching staff would monitor language and literacy skills and be alert to:  • speech sound development and phonological awareness • expressive language skills and, • understanding of language  Impact on access to the curriculum and barriers to peer interaction will be identified early by teachers.		The child may struggle to recognise some feelings of others for example, someone being kind.  Externalising behaviours The child may have some difficulties separating from parent/carers (separation anxiety, withdrawing and struggling to get into school), in line with typical development.
		The child may demonstrate some social communication difficulties, for example, conversational skills and joining teams or groups.  Some children who have difficulties with producing some speech sounds may still fall within Universal as it is not impacting on		The child may have some difficulty with emotional regulation in response to certain situations for example, focusing on the negative, difficulty calming down when upset.  The child may not be able to engage in some learning tasks. The child may demonstrate a difficulty in coping when

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Universal		their intelligibility, learning and		interacting with other children in
Support		social interaction.		line with development. For example, struggles to share, takes things from others, takes control.
				The child may demonstrate a difficulty in coping when interacting with other children in line with development. For example, struggles to maintain friendships.
				The child needs support to develop understanding of appropriate boundaries (in line with development).
				The child may occasionally withdraw and remain on the fringes of activities for example, when feeling uncertain or anxious about an unfamiliar activity (emotional dysregulation).
Universal Plus Support	Attaining at less <b>than 80%</b> of their chronological age (Artemis, 2022). See Handbook.	The child has some identified SLCN, and the school will discuss the needs of the young person with the link Speech and Language	The child is usually able to use functional language to communicate their needs.	Internalising behaviours The child may have difficulties getting into school, settling into school/setting despite adult
	The child is working below the expected rate of attainment in some curriculum areas despite Inclusive High-Quality Teaching.	Therapist or other professional (for example, EP, SLCA Advisory teacher, Early Years Advisory Teacher, Special Needs Health	The child may show limited understanding of social behaviour, cues, and expectations, such as turn-taking and lining-up, that	support (in line with development/expectations).  The child may need
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Level of Cogn Support	nition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Support    learning example other but the interpolation of the concession overlands of the concession overlands of the concession overlands overla	ress is slow in specific areas of hing and development, for apple, spelling compared to repupils in their year group, they can still demonstrate understanding with opriately scaffolded teaching.  Thild may be slower to use, and apply everyday epts than age equivalent soon and consolidation.  Thild may experience some culties with the pace of culum delivery and require teaching and consolidation of hing.  Thild requires use of multipory activities in key skills to force learning and provide mingful experiences.	dentified SLCN (by teachers and professionals) could include:  speech sound difficulties  difficulties understanding spoken or written language and following instructions  poor vocabulary development.  listening and attention difficulties.  Immature grammar  These difficulties may present in the context of weak attention skills, a weak working memory and difficulties with planning and organising in relation to problem solving.  The child may have identified speech difficulties (i.e. specific to speech production).  The child may have difficulties with reading comprehension, understanding mathematical language and concepts, getting ideas for writing and using appropriate sentence structures.  The child with SLCN may be working just below age-related expectations and may be	social situations confusing/unsettling.  The child seeks and responds to interactions but may require some guidance about appropriate initiation and responses.  The child may need additional support to form and/or maintain relationships.  The child may appear to have literal use and interpretation of language but is usually able to communicate for social purposes effectively/appropriately with limited support.  The child is usually able to recognise, reflect on and communicate their emotions with some support.  The child has a range of strategies to regulate their emotions and responses to the environment and change, which they can access with some support.  The child's emotional regulation needs rarely impact on their	The child may show emotional distress, which subsides with adult support.  The child may be worried about getting their work wrong or making mistakes.  The child may struggle to make friends.  The child may demonstrate difficulties with interpersonal communication and/or relationships. They may struggle to communicate their feelings.  The child may show low selfesteem. The child may show a lack of confidence.  The child may struggle to acknowledge or accept responsibility for wrongdoing according to setting.  Externalising behaviours The child may have increasing difficulties in sharing, turn-taking or (for upper primary) waiting. The child needs help to engage in play.

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Universal Plus Support		developing coping strategies such as copying work/following peers for prompts.  There may be concerns regarding the development of social skills and peer relationships.  The child may be receiving speech and language therapy i.e., for stammering, speech or communication.	attendance, engagement in learning and/or wellbeing.  The child needs additional support to manage change and transitions.  The child sometimes shows an awareness of other people's emotions and how their own actions impact on themselves and others.  The child may become unsettled and/or easily distracted by sensory stimuli in the environment (such as smells, noise, touch, and light) and can access regulation strategies with some support.  The child needs some personalised prompts and supports to assist self-help and care, dressing/undressing, and hand washing.  The child is usually able to recognise and manage personal, social, environmental, and physical risks with some support.	The child struggles to maintain attention during adult-led activities.

Level of	<b>Cognition and Learning</b>	Speech and Language	Communication and	Social, Emotional and
Support			Autism	Mental Health
Targeted	Attaining at less than 75% of their	The child has communication	The child's literal use and	Internalising behaviours
Support	chronological age (Artemis, 2022).	difficulties that require additional	interpretation of language means	The child regularly seems unhappy
	See Handbook.	or alternative communication	they need frequent support to	and under threat.
	Overall attainment is behind	strategies to allow them to access	effectively communicate for social	The shild demonstrates engains
	national expectations despite	the (differentiated) curriculum.	purposes.	The child demonstrates ongoing separation difficulties.
	targeted differentiation and	Some targeted children have	The child is developing their	separation difficulties.
	quality first, inclusive teaching.	weaker communication skills but	conversational skills with support.	The child regularly becomes
	quality mist, melasive teaching.	are responding quickly given a rich	conversational skins with support.	overwhelmed in the school
	The child experiences low level	and well-targeted language	The child often requires support	environment, and sometimes will
	difficulties with:	curriculum. (This may include	to functionally communicate their	need adult support to reassure
	aspects of learning, for	Wellcomm/ WordAware, Nelli).	needs when they are	them.
	example, reading, writing,	The child may have insufficient	dysregulated.	
	spelling or number	language to tell an adult about a	, ,	Social situations (the children are
	<ul> <li>understanding and/or</li> </ul>	problem they encounter but can	The child has difficulties forming,	engaged in unstructured play).
	remembering instructions	communicate their needs.	managing, and sustaining healthy	The child when overwhelmed may
	learning new concepts		and reciprocal relationships with	withdraw, or self-isolate.
		With the appropriate support in	others when sought.	
	The child will be working below	place, the child can access a		<u>Learning interactions</u> (scaffolding
	age related expectations for	differentiated mainstream	The child struggles to respond and	by adults in the classroom,
	attainment and progress.	curriculum and is making	interact. The child requires	learning related, learning
		progress.	guidance about appropriate	successfully along another child).
	The child has difficulty taking in	Control to difficultion on Id	initiation and responses.	The ability of the Control of the Co
	information due to attention and	Continuing difficulties could		The child may be feeling anxious
	concentration difficulties.	include:	The child's lack of understanding of social behaviour, cues and	which may be internalised or displayed through behaviours.
	School based assessments indicate	poor intelligibility,     weak phonological awareness.	expectations mean that they may	uispiayeu tiirougii bellaviours.
	School-based assessments indicate substantial and persistent	<ul><li>weak phonological awareness</li><li>vocabulary difficulties,</li></ul>	frequently find some social	The child regularly struggles to
	difficulties in literacy and/or		situations confusing/unsettling.	maintain attention during formal
	numeracy attainment despite	poor understanding	steadions comasting, ansetting.	learning.
	access to evidence-based		The child has difficulties	The child's low mood such as
	decess to evidence-based		recognising, reflecting on, and/or	sad/tearful, anxious, tired,
				frustrated prevents them from

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Targeted Support	intervention through the assess-plan-do-review cycle.  Assessments may include:  Specific learning difficulties team (hertfordshire.gov.uk) Running reading records Herts for Learning Rising stars NFER tests York Assessment of Reading Comprehension Phonological Assessment Battery (PhAB)  Indicators of co-occurring difficulties with phonological processing, verbal short-term memory and processing speed are apparent in school-based assessments/checklists and ongoing reasonable adjustments are embedded within daily practice.  The child is unable to sustain focussed and active engagement with a stimulus or task for learning to occur.	The child may have word finding difficulties or difficulties constructing a sentence.  Text-based comprehension and inferential skills may still be developing.  The child may have difficulties using language to problem solve and may find it hard to ask for help and support.  In expressive language, the child may have verbal word finding difficulties and difficulties constructing a sentence. These difficulties may present in the context of weak attention skills, a weak working memory and difficulties with planning and organising in relation to problem solving.  There may be on-going or emerging concerns with social interaction and peer relationships.  The child may stammer.  Stammering causes long-term difficulties in the classroom.	appropriately communicating their emotions.  The child struggles to access strategies to manage their emotions and responses to the environment and change.  The child's emotional regulation needs frequently impact on their attendance, engagement in learning and/or wellbeing.  The child's difficulties with emotional regulation may present as manipulative behaviour, attempts to control the environment and/or withdrawal.  The child struggles to show an awareness of other people's emotions and how their own actions impact on themselves and others.  The child requires prompting to access whole class learning.  The child's social communication needs, routines, and rituals and/or inflexible thought patterns	engaging. The low mood is out of character.  The child may struggle to accept direct praise and encouragement.  Externalising behaviours The child regularly demonstrates school avoiding behaviours, they may be becoming a persistent absentee. For example, undiagnosed illnesses. The child does not want to be in the classroom on a regular basis for-known or unknown reasons.  The child regularly requires adult support and finds waiting for help difficult in some situations.  The child regularly struggles to follow school rules.  The child regularly struggles to find solutions to problems.  The child occasionally may use language that is harmful to other people. They may or may not know that is the case.
			frequently impact on their ability to engage in some learning	

Level of	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and	Social, Emotional and
Support			Autism	Mental Health
Targeted Support	For children working within the National Curriculum there will evidence of the following: Word reading and spelling Key Stage 1  Working at EYFS standards Reading is within pink/red book bands or age equivalent Writes a few simple words and phrases but is unable to write and read back short sentences  Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)  So% + gaps in at least one of the phonics phases 2 to 4 (reading and/or spelling)  Difficulties with common words for example, can read and/or spell 30 words or less within first 100 words  Reading Yellow to Gold book bands or below  Difficulty composing and writing simple sentences  Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)  So% gaps in phonics in at least one of the phonics phases 2-5 (reading and/or spelling)  Can read and/or spell 50 words or less within first 100 words		activities and the wider school environment.  The child finds it difficult to cope with change (such as new people, places, events, or unplanned changes of routine) and transitions, particularly if it affects any repetitive behaviours or rituals they may have.  The child quickly becomes unsettled and/or easily distracted by sensory stimuli in the environment (such as smells, noise, touch, and light) and requires frequent support to regulate and/or a safe space.  The child requires some support to manage personal care including dressing/undressing and handwashing.  The child has difficulties understanding and recognising personal, social, environmental and physical risks and their own vulnerabilities.	

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Targeted Support	<ul> <li>Reading Purple to Brown book bands or below</li> <li>Difficulties composing and writing several sentences at a time</li> <li>Number</li> <li>Key Stage 1</li> <li>Working towards Early learning goals in Number</li> <li>Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)</li> <li>Working up to KS1 Standards in Maths</li> <li>Indicators of processing speed or memory difficulties using school-based checklists</li> <li>Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)</li> <li>Working towards or at lower KS2 expected standards in Maths</li> <li>Indicators of processing speed or memory difficulties using school-based checklists</li> <li>The child may have problems with:</li> <li>processing, organising and coordinating spoken or written language</li> <li>sequencing and organising the</li> </ul>			
	or memory difficulties using school-based checklists  The child may have problems with:  • processing, organising and coordinating spoken or written language			

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Targeted Support	<ul> <li>visual and/or auditory perception</li> <li>motor skills and/or handwriting</li> <li>The child has problems with understanding ideas, concepts, and experiences when information cannot be gained through first-hand sensory or physical experiences.</li> <li>The child may be aware of their difficulties and lack confidence and have low self-esteem.</li> </ul>			
Targeted Plus Support	Attaining at less than 60% of their chronological age (Artemis, 2022). See Handbook.  The child has persistent difficulties in the acquisition and use of language and vocabulary, literacy and/or numeracy skills which affect progress in other areas of the curriculum.  Literacy and/or numeracy attainment and cognitive processing skills (phonological processing, verbal short-term memory and verbal processing	The child has considerable, enduring SLCN difficulties. These are evident in communication, social aspects, and progress in the school curriculum in the school curriculum.  They have needs which require long-term involvement of educational and health professionals.  Targets will be provided by a Speech and Language Therapist or other professional (for example, EP, SLCA Advisory teacher, Early	The child has difficulties with functional and social communication skills, which impacts on their ability to communicate for social purposes and/or engage in learning.  The child has persistent and severe difficulties in forming healthy and reciprocal relationships.  The child's literal use and interpretation of language and difficulties with conversational skills, social conventions and	Internalising behaviours The child often demonstrates distressed states in school (tearful, sad, worried, low self-esteem, low motivation, hypervigilance).  The child is not able to recover after setbacks.  The child often demonstrates social interaction difficulties with others. The child has low self-esteem.

Level of	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and	Social, Emotional and
Support			Autism	Mental Health
Targeted Plus	speed) are causing difficulties that	Years Advisory Teacher, Special	understanding of and using non-	The child is regularly very
Support	impact on independent curriculum	Needs Health Visitor) in	verbal communication often cause	withdrawn in a way that is unusual
	access and require ongoing personalised intervention and	conjunction with parents/carers.	miscommunication and negative consequences.	for them.
	reasonable adjustments.	Individualised targets require		Externalising behaviours
		short periods of individual 1:1	The child is usually unable to	There is persistent absence from
	Progress is very limited, despite	adult support.	functionally communicate their	school.
	evidence of appropriate and		needs when dysregulated.	
	sustained differentiated support	The child may have speech		The child has ongoing difficulties
	and evidence-based intervention	difficulties that have been	The child has limited friendships	with self-regulation which impacts
	based on assessed needs and	identified by a Speech and	that have been sustained over	in their ability to cope in school
	strengths.	Language Therapist / Specialist	time.	and the functioning of others.
		Advisory Service or other		
	For children working within the	professional with expertise in	The child may isolate themselves	The child's inability to cope
	National Curriculum there will	SLCN. These speech difficulties	socially and has limited social	presents with harmful behaviours
	evidence of the following:	impact on the child's learning and	communication skills or positive	such as: hitting, punching, kicking,
	Word reading and spelling	being able to engage in classroom	experiences of interaction.	biting-slapping, spitting, hair
	Key Stage 1	activities.		pulling, including other behaviours
	Working towards Early		The child's lack of understanding	that have a negative impact on
	Learning Goals (ELGs) for	The child has persistent difficulties	of social behaviour, cues and	the child, that are not due to
	reading and writing	in comprehension and expression	expectations mean that they find	other causes.
	Difficulty identifying, blending	of language and possibly some	social situations	
	and segmenting Phase 2	complexity of need in relation to	confusing/unsettling.	The child persistently struggles to
	phonic sounds	social communication.	The shill have difficulties	engage with tasks.
	Minimal word recognition	There is an insurant on developing	The child has difficulties	The shild develope side of some include
	Emergent writing	There is an impact on developing	recognising, reflecting on, and/or	The child develops risky survival
		literacy skills, which will impede	appropriately expressing their	strategies for example, self-harm,
	Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)	access to many curriculum areas	emotions, which may lead to	running out of school, site or
	• 50-75% gaps in at least one of	without high levels of visual support, differentiation and	distress and challenging or withdrawn behaviours.	classroom, climbing at height on
	phonics phases 2 to 4 (reading	1	withdrawn behaviours.	property/furniture.
	and/or spelling)	reasonable adjustments.	The child needs substantial	The child challenges rules and
				_
			support to be able to reflect on	shows resistance to adult support.

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Targeted Plus Support	<ul> <li>50-75% errors in first 50         words (reading and/or spelling)</li> <li>Reading Pink to Yellow book bands</li> <li>Reading and/or writing at Prekey stage 1 standards</li> <li>Significant difficulty composing and writing a short sentence</li> <li>Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)</li> <li>50-75% gaps in at least one of phonics phases 2-5 (reading and/or spelling)</li> <li>50-75% errors within first 100 words (reading and/or spelling).</li> <li>Reading Blue to Turquoise book bands or below.</li> <li>Significant difficulties in structuring and writing simple sentences</li> <li>Number</li> <li>Key Stage 1</li> <li>Working towards Early learning goals in Number</li> <li>Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)</li> </ul>	The child may show evidence of weak executive functioning skills (attention, working memory, planning and organisation) in addition to their weak structural and functional language skills.  The child has difficulties with comprehension monitoring (knowing they have understood or not) and self-help skills.	how their actions impact on others.  The child needs substantial support to mutually regulate their emotions and responses to the environment and change.  The child's needs can substantially impact upon their ability to attend and access and engage with learning.  The child's social communication needs, routines, and rituals and/or inflexible thought patterns will impact on their ability to engage in learning activities and the wider school environment.  The child's difficulties with emotional regulation often presents where they seek to control or challenge situations.  The child can become distressed/withdrawn when faced with change (such as new people, places, events, or unplanned changes of routine), uncertainty	The child often uses harmful language sometimes with intent.  The child finds it hard to trust adults in school.  The child may use dangerous avoidance strategies when finding situations too challenging, for example, harm to self or others.
	<ul> <li>Working at Pre-key stage 1         Standards in Maths with very small steps of progress     </li> </ul>		and transitions, particularly if it affects any repetitive behaviours or rituals they may have.	

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Targeted Plus Support	<ul> <li>Co-occurring difficulties with processing speed and/or working memory</li> <li>Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)</li> <li>Working towards KS1 expected standards in Maths</li> <li>Co-occurring difficulties with processing speed and/or working memory</li> <li>The child has difficulties with concept development, logical thought and problem solving.</li> <li>There is clear evidence of difficulties in tasks involving specific abilities such as sequencing, organisation, phonological skills, working memory and processing skills.</li> <li>The child will have difficulties with the pace of the curriculum and require personalisation, daily adjustments to the presentation of information, scaffolding of tasks, assistive technology etc. to process information and to organise their time and work.</li> </ul>		The child quickly becomes distressed/withdrawn by sensory stimuli in the environment (such as smells, noise, touch, and light) and requires mutual regulation.  The child needs substantial support to manage personal care including toileting, dressing/undressing, and hand washing.  The child frequently exhibits a lack of awareness and understanding of personal, social, environmental, and physical risks and their own vulnerabilities.  The child has limited body awareness and may cause risk to self and/or others in attempts to seek, or avoid, sensory input or regulation.	

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Targeted Plus Support	The child may be feeling and/or showing signs of frustration or have low self-esteem.			
	The child may have specific learning difficulties (dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia) significantly affecting literacy or number skills, spatial and perceptual skills and fine and/or gross motor skills which may occur alongside other identified needs and conditions, for example, speech and language, autistic spectrum disorder and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).			
	The child has limited comprehension in some subject areas.  Difficulties impact upon independent access to an appropriately differentiated curriculum.  The child may have additional			
	difficulties with other areas:     motor skills     general organisation skills     behaviour			

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Targeted Plus Support	social or emotional and mental health			
Specialist Support	Attaining within a range of 34% with a maximum of 50% of their chronological age (Artemis, 2022). See Handbook.  The child will experience substantial, complex, persistent, and enduring learning difficulties. Cognition and learning remain within earlier developmental levels despite targeted and longterm intervention.  The child may have a medical diagnosis of Global Developmental Delay (GDD) including:  Delay in sitting up, crawling, walking  Limited reasoning or conceptual abilities  Fine/gross motor difficulties  Poor social skills/judgment  Aggressive behaviour as a coping skill  Communication problems  The child may have a medical diagnosis of developmental	The child will experience complex, persistent and enduring difficulties with SLCN, and a language disorder or speech disorder has been identified.  Difficulties with the language skills that underpin curricular progress means the child only makes small steps of progress in most areas of the curriculum [and 'goal-based outcomes'] and may 'plateau' for extended periods of time.  The child has a speech or language disorder that is central to their presentation. In addition, they may have associated difficulties in aspects of executive functioning including:  short-term memory working memory attention processing speed organising and planning skills thinking and reasoning skills There may also be impacts on: acquisition of literacy and	The child is limited in their use of verbal and non-verbal communication skills relating to both receptive and expressive language, which substantially impacts on their ability to communicate for social purposes and/or engage in learning.  The child requires a systemic programme to develop their use of verbal and non-verbal communication skills and receptive and expressive language. This may include a symbol system.  The child is unable to functionally communicate their needs when dysregulated when overwhelmed or over-stimulated.  The child exhibits risky behaviours several times a day that has an impact on self, others or the environment. For example, behaviours that result in unintentional injuries due to cognitive immaturity, impulsivity	Internalising behaviours The child routinely experiences distress which is presented through external behaviours or internalisation.  The child experiences high levels of stress that affect their daily functioning.  The child finds it difficult to ask for or accept help.  The child places unreasonable expectations on themselves that cause high levels of stress and/or self-injurious behaviours or harm to others.  The child is susceptible to negative influence.  Externalising behaviours There is a persistent absence from school, or lessons, due to the child's social and/or emotional and/or mental health needs.

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Specialist Support	disabilities, for example, brain disorder, Down syndrome, foetal alcohol syndrome, spina bifida, fragile x, which are life-long and require ongoing multi-disciplinary support.  The child's cognitive ability affects other areas of development including:  • independence  • play and leisure  • understanding physical and emotional wellbeing  • understanding the world around them  The child experiences consistent and persistent long-term difficulties with cognitive processing skills:  • phonological processing  • verbal short-term memory  • verbal processing speed  • problem solving  • sequencing and organising the steps needed to complete simple tasks  Progress is in very small steps inline with developmental age despite high levels of adult	<ul> <li>motor skills</li> <li>speech</li> <li>Educational concerns are around speech, and associated difficulties with communication, learning or both. At this level of support difficulties will have been identified by a Speech and Language Therapist as a:         Developmental Speech Sound Disorder (SSD)         <ul> <li>Dysarthria</li> <li>Verbal dyspraxia (CAS)</li> <li>Articulation Disorder</li> <li>Phonological Disorder</li> </ul> </li> <li>Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) has been identified, resulting in the child struggling in many of the following areas         <ul> <li>syntax (grammar)</li> <li>morphology (words and their parts)</li> <li>semantics (words and their meanings)</li> <li>word finding difficulties Pragmatics (Social use and understanding of language)</li> <li>discourse (conversational skills)</li> <li>phonology</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	or inability to accurately judge the level of safety in situations (as appropriate to age/stage of development). Behaviours are evidenced in a behaviour log or chart.  The child requires a systemic programme to develop joint attention and experience repeated positive interactions.  There is evidence of considerable difficulties persisting for the child because of his/her inflexibility and/or intrusive obsessional thoughts.  Evidence of a high priority having to be given to the management of the child's behaviour in the planning of most school and learning activities and the organisation of their learning environment.  The child experiences frequent emotional dysregulation and is unable to understand or communicate their emotional needs. The child needs substantial support to mutually regulate their	The child intentionally harms others to avoid things they find too hard.  The child is not able to recover after setbacks and will express this through harmful behaviours to self and others.  The child uses language to deliberately harm or shock others (for example, racist/obscene words).  The child exhibits behaviours that will give rise to safeguarding concerns (these behaviours are not because of brain injury).  The child's behavioural presentation impacts good order to a significant extent, this may be a need for excessive control, impulsivity or deficits in attention derived from emotional distress.  The child's behaviour presents significant risk to self or others.  The child's behaviour is perceived as threatening and frightening by other children and adults.

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Specialist Support	support. Difficulties impact on independent curriculum access. The child may have continuing emotional difficulties stemming from their learning difficulties. (Refer to social, emotional and mental health descriptors).  There are likely to be identified speech, language and communication difficulties including memory, processing, organising and co-ordinating spoken language to aid cognition. (Refer to speech and language descriptors).  The child may have fine and gross motor competencies, which significantly impede access to the curriculum.  The child will have difficulty understanding experiences when information cannot be gained through first-hand sensory or physical experiences.  The child has substantial and enduring literacy and/or numeracy needs despite sustained, appropriate one to one support from trained staff, delivering	<ul> <li>verbal learning/memory</li> <li>Specialist support (from teaching and support staff), with high levels of adaptation, will be required to facilitate access to the curriculum and ensure social inclusion.</li> <li>Ongoing specialist advice from a Speech and Language Therapist / Specialist Advisory Service or another professional is being implemented.</li> <li>The child may use assistive or augmentative communication systems.</li> <li>The child is offered a highly adapted curriculum which supports their language development in finely graded steps and support for using and generalising new language skills.</li> <li>At this level of support difficulties will have been identified by specialist services.</li> </ul>	emotions and responses to the environment and change.  The child's emotional regulation needs substantially impact on their attendance, engagement in learning and/or wellbeing.  The child's difficulties with emotional regulation substantially present as manipulative or demand avoidant behaviours that challenge the authority of staff. It can also be demonstrated as introverted responses.  The child is unable to understand how their actions impact on themselves and others.  The child's difficulties with emotional regulation frequently led to unsafe behaviours, whether internalised or externalised.  The child's needs, including their social development, inflexibility of behaviour and thought and communications are enduring, consistently impeding their learning, and leading to severe difficulties in functioning.	The child requires bespoke and creative strategies to engage with any formal learning in the whole class or group situation.

Level of	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and	Social, Emotional and
Support			Autism	Mental Health
Specialist	research or evidence-based		The child has substantial and	
Support	interventions.		persisting difficulties when faced	
	The child will show evidence of		with change, uncertainty, or	
	some of the following:		transitions because of their	
	Word reading and spelling		considerable inflexibility of thought, intrusive thoughts,	
	Key Stage One		repetitive behaviours and/or	
	Limited awareness of early		rituals.	
	print concepts			
	Difficulty matching		The child has been unable to	
	phonemes to graphemes and		respond to strategies and	
	forming letters in response to		provision and has therefore not	
	a sound		made the expected progress in	
	Key Stage 2		achieving their social, emotional,	
	Severe difficulties in acquiring		and academic targets.	
	early literacy skills			
	Early phonic skills not secured		The child regularly and quickly	
	for example, working within or		becomes overwhelmed by sensory	
	below phase 2		stimuli in the environment (such	
	Very limited recall of early		as smells, noise, touch, and light) and requires mutual regulation.	
	sight words for reading and		and requires mutual regulation.	
	spelling		The child is unable to	
	Some children may be developing		independently carry out aspects of	
	good reading skills with the aid of		personal care including toileting,	
	evidence-based interventions.		dressing/undressing, and hand	
	Reading comprehension is still		washing.	
	likely to be behind the ability to			
	read the words.		The child is unaware of any	
	Maths		personal, social, environmental,	
	Severe and persistent difficulty in		and physical risks and their own	
	acquiring basic arithmetic skills		vulnerabilities.	

Level of	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Support			Autisiii	ivientai neaitii
Specialist Support	and number sense despite ongoing one to one intervention based on secure assessment, delivered by trained staff using research or evidence-based interventions.		The child has a lack of body awareness and frequently causes a risk to self and/or others in attempts to seek sensory input or regulation.  The child requires external specialist services.	
Specialist Plus Support	Attaining at less than 33% of their chronological age (Artemis, 2022). See Handbook.  The child has profoundly compromised functioning across all developmental areas which are likely to remain unchanged. This will include several co-occurring difficulties for example, sensory, physical, communication and cognition (such as thinking and reasoning skills).  The child operates at very early stages of development that affects all aspects of learning.  Significant cognitive impairment severely restricts access to the curriculum and ability to work independently.	Children at this level will use less verbal language, therefore speech and language descriptors are not the best way to set out need.  Needs will be described in other areas of the Banding Tool (refer to: cognition and learning, physical and neurosensory and Autism Spectrum Disorders).	Social Communication Severe deficits in verbal and nonverbal social communication skills cause severe impairments in functioning.  Very limited initiation of social interactions, and minimal response to social overtures from others.  The child rarely initiates interaction and, when he or she does, makes unusual approaches to meet needs.  The child may respond to only very direct social approaches.  Restricted, repetitive behaviours Inflexibility of behaviour, extreme difficulty coping with change, or other restricted/repetitive	Internalising behaviours The child is prone to exercising negative influence over peers.  The child is unable to make or sustain social relationships due to social and/or emotional, and/or mental health issues.  The child has negative/suicidal thoughts, or comments.  The child has a very negative view of the future.  The child is depressed and/or highly anxious.  The child has low mood and/or lack of energy.  The child is closed off or isolated, not wanting to accept help or support.

Level of	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and	Social, Emotional and
Support			Autism	Mental Health
Specialist Plus	The child's developmental		behaviours markedly interfere	The child is medicated for a health
Support	difficulties may be associated with		with functioning in all spheres.	condition by CAMHS.
	biomedical conditions such as:		2	
	sensory impairment		Great distress/difficulty changing	PALMS or other health
	motor impairment		focus or action.	professionals/agencies are
	complex medical needs		Due ferradic limited from etienel	involved.
	dependencies on technology      including a common attains and		Profoundly limited functional social communication skills lead to	Futamalising habauia
	(including augmentative and alternative communication such as			Externalising behaviours The child's behaviour is
	Makaton).		daily, persistently high levels of distress and anxiety. This impacts	
	iviakatorij.		on all areas of learning and social	unpredictable, dangerous, and/or challenging for others.
	The child has very limited or no		activity including play and lunch	chanenging for others.
	understanding of formal language.		times.	The child is at risk of criminal
	understanding of formal language.		times.	exploitation because of their
	The child will have limited		The child is unable to functionally	vulnerability.
	expressive communication but		communicate their needs.	vanierasinty.
	may be able to communicate basic			Safeguarding concerns have been
	needs using signs and gestures		The child may have unpredictable	identified.
	and/or some key words.		or frequent sudden outbursts of	
	· ·		challenging behaviour several	The child sabotages positive
	The child has difficulties with		times a day that jeopardizes the	situations due to lack of coping
	concept development and logical		health and safety of self and	strategies and poor emotional
	thought which limits access to the		others.	regulation.
	curriculum.			
			The child may be observed to	The child is at significant risk of
	The child may need intensive staff		rarely respond to, or initiate bids	harm through suicidal thoughts,
	support to keep them and other		for interaction, requiring a highly	eating disorders and other self-
	children safe, for example, to		bespoke programme of specialist	harming behaviours (including
	manage challenging behaviour or		support.	drug and alcohol abuse).
	self-stimulation.		The child relies on others for	The child's mental health impacts
			mutual regulation of their	their ability to think flexibly and
			emotions and responses to the	their need for excessive control is
			external environment.	significant.

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Specialist Plus Support	The child may have a life-limiting or degenerative condition requiring specialist support.  The child may have extensive additional health needs requiring medical intervention.  Progress is in very small steps inline with developmental age despite high levels of adult support.		The child's emotional regulation needs profoundly and consistently impact on their attendance, engagement in learning and/or wellbeing.  The child is unable to recognise personal, social, environmental, and physical risks. This leads to frequent experiences of profoundly escalated emotional dysregulation and high levels of anxiety, which lead to responses that substantially jeopardise the health and safety of self and others.  The child's frequent ritualistic and inflexible behaviours substantially impede on their functioning.  The child has been unable to respond to strategies and provision and has therefore not made the expected progress in achieving their social, emotional and/or academic targets.  The child has profound and continual difficulties when faced with change, uncertainty, or transitions because of their considerable inflexibility of	The child presents with a level of need that requires expert medical or psychiatric support.  The child's social and emotional needs supersede the ability of the child to access academic learning, as a result the child's performance/attainment is significantly impaired.

Level of Support	Cognition and Learning	Speech and Language	Communication and Autism	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
Specialist Plus Support			thought, intrusive thoughts, repetitive behaviours and/or rituals.  The child regularly and quickly becomes overwhelmed and highly anxious and/or distracted by sensory stimuli in the environment.  The child is unaware of their health and personal care needs and is unable to carry out any aspects of personal care, including toileting, dressing/undressing, and hand washing.  The child is unable to recognise personal, social, environmental, and physical risks and their own vulnerabilities.  The child persistently causes a risk to self and/or others through a lack of body awareness and seeking or avoiding sensory input.	
			The child requires external specialist services.	