



**NORTHWOOD**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*...growing success*

**Resource Base for  
Speech, Language and  
Communication Needs  
September 2021**

# 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.

**WELCOME!**

## 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. They allocate places in conjunction with the Local Authority. If your child attends another school they will provide evidence to the panel in order for a decision to be made.

# What happens during an intervention session?

## SLB Session

Over the course of a week your child will receive a number of Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) sessions, which focus on their individual targets.



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.

## Speech Therapist Session

We have access to an NHS Speech and Language Therapist who works closely with Resource Base staff to set and review targets.

## 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 practise their new skills. The children are proud to be part of the SLB family, as it provides 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 Alison Coates | SENCo                            |
| Mrs Popple        | Higher Level Teaching Assistant  |
| Miss Douthwaite   | Higher Level Teaching Assistant  |
| Ms Kristi Eddy    | Speech and Language<br>Therapist |

### Our school has:

- A dedicated SENCo to oversee the provision for all children with additional needs across the school.
- Experienced and highly qualified staff directly support children in the Resource Base.
- Access to a NHS Speech and Language Therapist.
- 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.
- Regular parental engagement events
- A leadership team fully committed to the inclusion of all children.

## 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. Their achievements and progress will be measured using school data.



## How can I help my child?

There is an expectation that parents work with Resource Base staff to help their child achieve their 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.



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

Mrs Zoe Beach - Executive Head Teacher

Mrs Sarah Wassell - Head of School

Mrs Alison Coates - SENCo/ Assistant Head Teacher

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

Kristi Eddy - Speech and Language Therapist

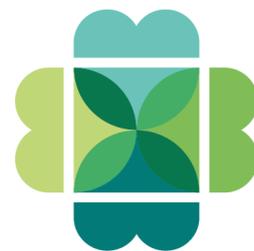
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