

The Communication Commitment

****Updated to reflect the new Code of Practice****



The **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice 0-25** received Parliamentary approval in July 2014 and is in force from 1 September 2014. The Code applies to all organisations who work with and support children and young people with SEND. This includes local authorities, health agencies and *all educational settings*.

The Communication Commitment is a simple way to ensure all pupils communicate to the best of their ability by developing a whole-school approach to communication. Over 1,000 schools are already using the Commitment to support their work in improving outcomes for pupils around communication. The Commitment was created to support schools in prioritising communication for all their pupils, but we know that good practice in communication for all really supports students with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

Now the Commitment has been updated to reflect the **2014 SEND Code of Practice** by its host, The Communication Trust, cited in the Code as providing advice, information and training on speech, language and communication. Below we have shown how the Commitment links with and supports the underlying principles of the Code of Practice:

- 1. School leadership** - The Commitment supports school leaders to think strategically about communication. It provides resources and reinforces senior leaders' essential role in ensuring systematic approaches to **identification, assessment, monitoring and support for pupils with SLCN, as in the Code.**
- 2. Workforce development** - The Commitment provides actions, tools and resources for the professional development of teaching staff in supporting speaking and listening for all pupils including those with SLCN. **It reinforces the principle that support for SEN starts with good teaching and learning for all pupils, as stated in the Code.**
- 3. Communication - friendly schools** - The Commitment provides guidance on how to achieve high quality learning environments with a focus on Communication. It supports teaching that promotes communication development, with particular focus on strategies and environments that remove barriers to learning, **intrinsic to the graduated response highlighted in the Code.**
- 4. Supporting pupils with SLCN** - The Commitment gives schools the resources and guidance to develop both the policy and practice to **identify pupils with SLCN and deliver evidenced-based support, fundamental to the principles of the Code.**
- 5. Engagement with parents, families or employers** - The Commitment supports schools to involve parents in discussions around their children's progress. It also helps schools to prepare pupils for their transition to employment, with tools to engage employers through a focus on communication skills. **Both preparation for adulthood and centrality of families are highlighted as extremely important in the Code**

More information on the links between the Commitment's five priority areas and the Code are available in a new factsheet, '**The Commitment and the 2014 SEND Code,**' with details of actions within the Commitment that will support schools' duties under the Code.



In order to support Commitment schools in their plans for delivering the Reforms, we have also updated relevant Commitment downloads to show how they link to the Code of Practice; you can access an index of all updated downloads which highlights their specific links to the Code.

Find out more! www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/commitment