

## SCHOOL CASE STUDY:

# Commissioning Speech, Language and Communication Services

## AN EXAMPLE OF COMMISSIONING PRACTICE IN SCHOOLS

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### ROLE: SENCO, PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### What was commissioned?

We were looking for a speech and language therapist (SLT) to supplement our core SLT provision and existing support from the SENCO in our school.

#### What process did you use?

A private SLT service was recommended to us by our Inclusion Network Lead after having good experience of working with them in another school. We contacted them directly to check whether they could meet our need and whether they had capacity.

#### How has it gone?

The SLT has worked well within our school; we monitor her work by monitoring progress within the classroom as well as more general measures such as pupil attendance. The SLT also provides an annual report to share her progress.

#### What have you learned from the commissioning process?

The commissioned SLT was inducted by a member of our school senior leadership team and the SENCO. We have a graduated response chart for each year group, so we used this to talk them through what the school already offered. For example the TA runs a group support session that was useful for the SLT to be aware of. We also used this time to run through general school policies that would be good for them to consider when working with pupils. The SLT found having this information before planning her sessions for pupils really helpful.

In hindsight another learning for us was that it that would have been good to have considered at an early stage the commissioned SLT's supervision needs, and their own company's policies that they had a requirement to adhere to eg consent and data protection. The latter would have been particularly helpful when managing expectations of teachers with how much of an individual pupil's case notes they could access.

#### Please Note:

This case study was developed from an interview with schools staff **BEFORE** TCT's 'One Stop Guide' for schools commissioning speech and language therapy services was written. Its inclusion is to demonstrate an example of schools commissioning practice. It does not provide an example of how practice may/ should look after using TCT's 'One Stop Guide'.