

THE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE UNIT

The Speech and Language Unit was set up for children with specific speech and language difficulties who are able to benefit from short term intensive help (usually 1-3 years). It provides intensive speech and language therapy in an educational setting for children residing in the Rochdale Metropolitan Borough children benefit from the expertise of teachers, speech and language therapists and assistance from support staff in the unit. The main aim is to develop the children's speech and language skills in order that they may return to their local mainstream school wherever possible.

There are 12 places for children aged between 3-7 years old. Children who are admitted to the Speech and Language Unit are placed on the roll of Castleton Primary School. Most children transfer back to their original local mainstream school when they leave, after agreement by the parents and professionals concerned.

The children follow individual speech and language therapy programmes designed to meet their individual needs. The Speech and Language targets are integrated into the Individual Education Plans for each child. All members of the Language Unit team work with the children on these targets.

The children work in a variety of groupings; 1:1, small group, whole class. We provide access to the National Curriculum through a topic-based approach to meet the children's special educational needs.

All the children in the Speech and Language Unit are integrated into the mainstream classes at Castleton Primary School, according to their individual needs and for a variety of curricula activities.

Free transport is organised Rochdale Education Authority. The children wear seat belts and an escort accompanies the children to and from school.

Communication between staff and parents is organised in a variety of ways;

- Annual review meetings and case review meetings
- Termly parent meetings
- A home/school note-book for informal day-to-day communication-to be used by staff and parents
- The classroom telephone for immediate contact, advice and discussion
- Speech and Language Unit newsletters

In all other matters the children in the Speech and Language Unit follow the mainstream school.

