

# Learning Support

The Learning Support Department has two members of staff who are both qualified to teach pupils with specific learning difficulties. All children in the school are integrated into mainstream classes, but those pupils who require more specialised teaching receive an individual lesson with one of the staff from the department. An Individual Educational Programme is written for each pupil in consultation with other members of staff who teach the child and, where possible, the pupil also contributes towards it.

Initially, if it is felt there may be an underlying difficulty affecting their progress, pupils are recommended by their teachers for an assessment to be carried out by one of the members of staff from the department. Once the assessment has been completed all interested parties are informed of the results and a decision as to how to proceed in order to maximise the child's future progress is made. It is at this point that an individual lesson with a specialist teacher may be offered. Sometimes support is given to a pupil who is not receiving an individual lesson. They may receive resources from the department to assist them in their class lessons.

At all times the teachers from the department work closely with the pupils' teachers and regularly meet to ensure the children's needs are being met. All staff having contact with the pupils receiving individual help are made aware of their specific difficulties. Strategies are then suggested to maximise their progress.

The department is continually reviewing its resources in order to meet the needs of the pupils currently receiving individual help. A variety of teaching styles is used to address the needs of the pupils. Resources include computer programs and games as well as other written materials to enable the pupils to gain the skills and strategies to access the curriculum.

Information on all pupils receiving individual support is compiled and transferred to their Senior School to enable a smooth transition. This ensures that their new school is aware of their individual needs and can continue the support the pupils have received whilst attending St Andrew's School.

The progress of the pupils is closely monitored. The allocation of an individual lesson is reviewed regularly in consultation with other members of staff and the child's parents, as well as the pupil themselves. If it is agreed that the pupil would be able to cope in the mainstream class without further individual help from a specialist teacher then the lessons cease.

Regular visits are made to the school by an Educational Psychologist who carries out more detailed assessments. The recommendations in the report are shared with all the staff teaching the pupil and incorporated in the Individual Educational Programme.

