

## The Language Class at Matchborough First School Academy

Information 2024-2025



### What is the Language Class?

The Language Class opened in 1991. It is the only Language Class for school age children in the Redditch area, although it may take children from surrounding Worcestershire towns.

It is a place for children who have speech, language and communication difficulties resulting in a diagnosis suggestive of a “language disorder”. The term “Language disorder”, refers to children whose “understanding and expression of language deviates from the normal pattern of development”. This is not just speech but includes children who have difficulties understanding the language spoken to them.



### What does our Language Class provision look like?



The Language Class caters for up to eleven children from Reception age to year 4. It has a high staff ratio with experienced teachers and teaching assistant. A speech and language therapist works all day on a Monday and on Thursday mornings in the class.

Pupils receive targeted intervention around their specific speech and language targets, which are reviewed regularly by both the class teachers and the speech and language therapist. These targets are set out in an individual provision map, which is shared with parents termly.

The school day starts at 8.50 with a daily calendar activity, followed by assembly with the rest of the school. Pupils receive a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum and are included as full members of the school. They are included in mainstream classes where appropriate, as it is expected that, with intense intervention, the children should be able to access fulltime mainstream provision in the future.

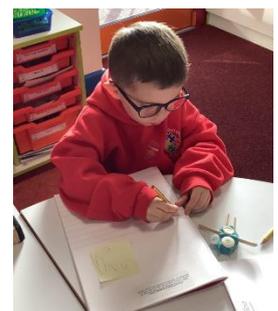
They take part in school educational visits and in extra-curricular activities and clubs. “Signalong” and **picture symbols** are used to support the children’s communication skills, both within the Language Class and the mainstream classrooms.

### How do I get a place in the Language Class for my child?

Although the Language Class is located on our school site, gaining a place is a separate process from the school’s normal admission systems. It is expected that a child will be referred for a place based on a recommendation from their Speech and Language Therapist, as the child has significant specific Speech Language and / or Communication needs.

Most children/young people who have a place in the Language Class will therefore:

- Be of Reception age and above
- Have specific Speech, Language and Communication needs
- Have ability within the average range expected for children of their age



- Have already received at least 4 – 6 intervention sessions from a Speech and Language Therapist
- Have received relevant interventions from School or nursery, as advised by Speech and Language Therapy, as part of SEN Support and the Graduated Response to meeting Special Educational Needs
- Despite intervention will still be demonstrating cause for concern such that the Speech and Language Therapist is of the opinion that a period of intensive intervention within a Language Class is required
- If there are concerns about other areas of development, will be seen by a paediatrician to check for other developmental problems
- Have Speech and Language as the primary concern in the absence of other primary physical, learning and significant social communication difficulties

Parents/carers will have been consulted by School/Nursery and/or their Speech and Language Therapist about a referral to the Language Class and parents have given their consent for the referral.

Pupils ideally live in Worcestershire. The referral should be made by the child's Speech and Language Therapy team to Worcestershire Local Authority, who will check that the initial criteria are met. If they are, the Local Authority will forward the referral paperwork to the Language Class admissions team for consideration for placement.

