

ECASS and ELKLAN

ECASS is a Local Authority project that aspires to adapt an early intervention approach to Speech Language and Communication needs (SLCN) to improve pupil outcomes for young people and their families. We currently have 77 pupils with SLCN needs in school which is our biggest need at Bishop Stopford's School.

ELKLAN is part of the ECASS project and offers speech and Language support for 11-16-year-old pupils in school. It promotes learning for all especially SLCN learners by providing strategies to support during teaching. It encourages educators to be more aware of SEND learners in the classroom and adapt strategies accordingly during interaction and delivery on an ongoing basis. Some strategies that have been employed by staff are:

- Facilitating a communication chain which ensures effective communication during learning; ensuring it is a “2-way street” between teachers and learners.
- Creating a calm: stimulating, supportive and well ventilated learning environment for all learners; to ensure everyone is more comfortable and confident to share during lessons.
- Use of pair/share activities to allow everyone a chance to use and develop language/vocabulary and express thoughts during lessons.
- Use of modelling techniques regularly to illustrate how to solve simple to complex problems
- Encourage all learners to demonstrate understanding independently or in groups through use of mini white boards and independent practice in books.
- Support learners to summarise knowledge through use of tools such as mind maps as a key revision strategy.

Promoting learning using these strategies is an ongoing process where there is constant reviewing and evaluating of learning. Strategies are adapted as it deems fit to gain the most favourable outcomes for our learners.

The ELKLAN project is improving pupil outcomes. Teachers are using the strategies in a classroom setting which opens up an access route to learning for all learners not just pupils with SLCN needs, Literacy difficulties, dyslexic pupils, and those with ASD but every pupil 11-16 can benefit.

Data shows that ELKLAN strategies are now evident in 87% of lessons with the target for this to be 100% by the end of the next term. To support this, ELKLAN strategies are a regular topic in whole staff CPD sessions with our champion staff used more and more to deliver to the rest of the staff body.

The support offered by the staff and SEND department through strategies such as ELKLAN and the pastoral support resulted in 96% of parents responding positively to the support given to their child to allow them to succeed.

Teachers have received training in school from the ECASS team. All staff learned strategies for supporting SLCN pupils in lessons. Using the ELKLAN strategies enables pupils to achieve their outcomes and removes barriers to learning. The ELKLAN champions have also facilitated INSET to teachers and governors showing them strategies that can be used to support learners.

ELKLAN Champions

Some members of staff have become ELKLAN champions. They followed a fully accredited course. We have ELKLAN Champions in the core subjects:

Carol Hart - SENCO and RS Department

Helen Otchre - EAL Department

Charmaine Cousins- Roach - Maths Department

Margaret Byrne - English Department

Husna Ali - Science Department

Current staff being trained in ELKLAN are

Simi - HLTA SEN

Siobhan Burns - TA SEN

Dimitra - EAL Department

Fatma Sonmez - Geography Department

Tracy Ansah - ICT Department

Mary Aquah - Acting member of the SLT

The above staff have knowledge and strategies to help all pupils with SLCN. They can offer strategies for teachers who may require knowledge of the communication chain, they are able to support staff and offer strategies for creating communication, memory and learning, promoting vocabulary development, and supporting expressive language skills. In addition, they have the knowledge to promote effective communication and social skills, helping students with unclear speech and helping students who stammer so that barriers are removed from the learning environment.

To find out more, please visit the ELKLAN website:

<https://www.elklan.co.uk/>

