



Spotlight on Millfields Community School

Millfields Community School in Hackney was the winner of the Primary School of the Year Award at the 2013/14 Shine a Light Awards. The school impressed judges with their in-depth provision map for prioritising children's language and communication highlighting the multi-faceted range of speech and language interventions currently running in the school.

Millfields Community School has a skilled intervention team who work with children on a universal, targeted and specialist level. The universal support ensures all children are targeted with consistent and rich communication environments across the school in a preventative manner.

The school use visual timetables and Makaton across the whole school. Staff are regularly trained to equip them with the skills and knowledge to support children's communication and maintain the range of interventions throughout the school year.

Children who require one-to-one support are well supported with the Speech and Language Therapists working closely with the Inclusion Manager. There have been clear individual cases in which children's speech and language has improved to the extent that they no longer require contact with the Speech and Language Therapist.

This approach has had a wider impact than just at school, with parents approaching school staff and the Speech and Language Therapist to comment on how their child now talks about books. This has in turn encouraged parents to access local library resources - a fantastic achievement for a socially deprived area of East London.

The school believes it to be crucial that communication support continues at home so that children can generalise and hone their speech, language and communication skills. With this view the school offers whole school awareness days, information giving coffee mornings and offers parents and carers regular contact with school staff.

Millfields School won the *Primary School of the Year Award* in recognition of their innovative, sustainable and inspiring model of working ensuring that all children with communication needs are able to access quality, evidence-based interventions throughout the academic year.

The level of staff enthusiasm in developing and maintaining their own ideas contributes to the uniqueness of their work and the remarkable positive impact achieved for each and every child.

