



Makaton at Bennerley Fields School

Makaton forms part of our system to provide a total communication environment for our pupils at Bennerley Fields.

What is Makaton?

Makaton is a multimodal communication system which uses signs, symbols and speech to enable our pupils to communicate. Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills needed in life. Almost everything involves communication; everyday tasks such as learning at school, asking for food and drink, sorting out problems, making friends and having fun.

Why use Makaton?

Signs help provide extra clues about what someone is saying. Using signs can help pupils who have no speech or whose speech is unclear. Using symbols can help pupils who have limited speech and those who cannot or prefer not to sign.

Makaton is extremely flexible as it can be personalised to an individual's needs and used at a level suitable for them.

How does this help?

Makaton uses speech with signs (gestures) and symbols (pictures) to help pupils communicate. We also use facial expression, eye contact and body language to give as much information as possible.

Using signs can help pupils who have no speech or whose speech is unclear. Research has shown that signs and gestures are easier to learn than spoken words.

Symbols can be used to support communication in many ways. Using symbols can help people who have limited speech and those who cannot or prefer not to sign.

How is this implemented at Bennerley Fields?

We have a Makaton Regional Trainer at school who provides training for staff. Signing and symbols are used in classes to support the communication systems in each class.

If you want any information or have any questions regarding Makaton please contact Sarah McGarva via the school office.