

The Core Support team is part of East Ayrshire Support Team (EAST). It works collaboratively with colleagues in educational establishments to provide support for learners with additional support needs to help them achieve their individual targets and reach their full potential.

The Core Support team is made up of teachers, classroom assistant coaches and classroom assistants who work in mainstream establishments across East Ayrshire on a peripatetic basis. Support for Early Childhood Centres and special schools is provided on a needs-led basis.

Principal Teachers have first line responsibility for the Core Support team.

Staff within the Core Support team undertake additional personal study to remain abreast of current best practice around additional support needs.

How support from the Core Support Team is accessed

EAST provides an annual core allocation to each primary establishment to help support their provision for learners with additional support needs. EAST staff access a range of resources and specialised equipment to provide targeted support to identified learners.

There are processes to identify children requiring targeted interventions such as Closing the Literacy Gap.

The Core Support team contributes to the authority's support policies and procedures to reflect best practice as detailed in the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009 through:

- Consultation, liaison, advisory support
- Curriculum & staff development
- Direct teaching
- Supporting early identification and assessment

What the Core Support team does:

Consultation, liaison, advisory support

- Works collaboratively with colleagues to plan support for identified learners; provides advisory support and guidance on effective approaches/resources to meet the needs of learners with additional support needs (e.g. dyslexia, dyscalculia, visual stress)
- Participates in Team Around the Child (TAC) meetings for planning and review; contributes to plans including ILPs as appropriate
- Joint working/liaison with colleagues in education and other sectors (e.g. Health)

Curriculum & staff development

- Coaching and modelling support for colleagues e.g. CA coaches supporting literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing approaches and interventions; 1-1 support for producing quality ILPs
- Delivers career-long professional learning (CLPL) opportunities for colleagues to increase knowledge and understanding in this area

through a comprehensive CLPL calendar, facilitating Teacher Learner Communities and bespoke support

- Develops support packs and materials to provide guidance and practical strategies for colleagues on a range of themes related to ASN

Direct teaching

- Every primary establishment accesses a core allocation of EAST support, based on need. This allocation assists colleagues to meet the literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing needs of children with additional support needs
- Targeted support with an agreed focus delivered to identified individuals/small groups through extraction or within a co-op setting

Supporting early identification and assessment

EAST supports the authority's assessment procedures reflecting the good practice outlined in Building the Curriculum 5. The assessment process takes an holistic approach and aims to be least intrusive to the learner. Processes are robust, reliable and valid and:

- meet learners' needs, enabling them to achieve aspirational goals and maximise their potential
- are proportionate and fit for purpose
- follow and reinforce the curriculum, promoting high quality learning and teaching approaches
- engage learners and provide high quality feedback leading to improved outcomes.

In addition to core support, a small allocation of time is used to deliver flexible supports. These

include:

Closing the Literacy Gap (CLG)

- Targeted literacy support is offered to identified pupils in Primary 2, 6 and 7 with systems in place to support the selection process

Cogmed/working memory

- Targeted support to identified children to improve their working memory through an online resource (Cogmed) as well as follow-up/alternative support

Health & wellbeing outreach support

- Support focuses on the needs of the learners and ranges from individual work to whole staff training

Literacy outreach

- A range of approaches/resources are used to formulate a personalised intervention to support identified children on an outreach basis

Numeracy support

- Targeted support to identified children to develop their core numeracy skills using current best practice

Positive relational strategies

- Staff implement a relational approach in line with East Ayrshire's Relationships Framework

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East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear

EAST AYRSHIRE SUPPORT TEAM

Service Leaflet

**Core
Support
Team**

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