



Children learn and develop in diverse ways. Teachers recognise this and use a variety of teaching styles, resources and plan different levels of work in the classroom to cater for various learning styles. This is called Quality First Teaching and is something schools must provide for all children. However, many children need a little extra help at some point.

It is estimated that 1 in 5 children need some additional support at some time in their school lives. This may be on account of English being an additional language or simply to boost a child's learning, or because they have a specific learning difficulty.

At Pembridge Hall we enjoy working in close partnership with parents when identifying any additional needs and in developing a suitable programme to meet those needs.

This leaflet aims to provide parents with information about some of the possible interventions and support programmes currently used in our school and how these support learning.



Information for Parents

**Additional Support
Programmes
at Pembridge Hall**

All additional support offered in our school is enjoyable, interactive and sensitive to individual needs. Each session is arranged outside core curriculum time so that it does not impact on regular classroom learning experiences, wherever possible. Girls feel a sense of achievement and success and soon experience a positive effect on the area being targeted.

Support is usually delivered by Teaching Assistants but Specialist Teachers also work with girls, either in a group or occasionally 1-1 for a full lesson period.

The list of support programmes here is not exhaustive but is a representative example of what we offer and use in school.

Literacy



Bear Necessities - the first in a programme to support the decoding of the sound of letters and simple words; a skill needed when learning to read. The support is given daily for 5-10 minutes, 1-1 with a Teaching Assistant.



Dancing Bears - is the next step in the series to support decoding of sounds in the English language when learning to read. There are a number of possible levels and we most frequently use the first two, A and B. Most girls will only complete 1, possibly 2 in the series. Again, it is delivered daily for 5-10 minutes, 1-1 with a Teaching Assistant.



Apples and Pears – is a spelling programme and supports the encoding of sound. So a child hears a sound and learns to identify which letter or letter string they must write down to match what they have heard. This programme can start once a child has a reasonable skill in the reading of simple sounds and words. Again it is a daily 5-10 minute programme, usually with a Teaching Assistant.



PAT – Phonological Awareness Training is exactly what it says! It is a programme that teaches children to read, spell and write phonetically regular single syllable words by making analogies. There are no lists of words to remember, it trains the girls to identify words similar to the target sound via rhyme. This programme is delivered in groups of up to 4 children with a Specialist Teacher.



Units of Sound – is a comprehensive computer programme for those aged 8 and up. It supports all areas of literacy development: reading, comprehension, spelling, memory. It works adaptively according to each individual's needs, moving at a pace that suits them, targeting the level appropriate to each area of their literacy development. It was developed by Dyslexia Action. This programme can be used between 3 and 5 days a week for up to around 20-25 minutes each time. Usually a Specialist Teacher will oversee this programme.



Toe-by-Toe – is a carefully structured, diagnostic system for teaching reading to children aged 7+. It uses many nonwords so that pupils have to really think before they read and fully understand the sound of the letter strings in front of them. It is delivered 5-10 minutes daily, 1-1, with a Teaching Assistant or Specialist Teacher.



Here Comes Super Bus – is a series to support the development of grammar and vocabulary in English as an Additional Language. It is enjoyable, engaging and highly effective in supporting children who speak other languages alongside English. It is delivered in small groups in the Lower School by a Teaching Assistant with a special interest in this area of development.

Numeracy



Plus 1 - is a support programme that teaches the building blocks of numbers and begins to develop skills with mental calculations. It covers skills such as counting backwards and forwards from random numbers, adding and subtracting up to 10 and introduces simple halving and doubling. The programme is delivered 5-10 minutes daily, 1-1, with a Teaching Assistant.



Power of 2 – is the second programme in this series. It provides support to access the full Maths curriculum by revising number bonds to 10, halving and doubling more complex numbers, rounding numbers, multiplying, dividing, fractions, word problems and time. The programme is delivered 5-10 minutes daily, 1-1, with a Teaching Assistant.



Practical Maths – these are usually group sessions which support the foundations of number and understanding of the number system. This is done using visual and concrete materials so that girls can see numbers in a practical format. They experiment and solve problems to consolidate and deepen their understanding. These sessions are led by a Specialist Teacher.

We do hope that this information is helpful and you are always welcome to email our Head of Additional Needs with any further questions:

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