

## Support for Learning Department

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# North Berwick High School



## Support for Learning Leaflet for Parents

## Support for Learning

### What is Support for Learning?

Support for Learning is the help pupils get to access the curriculum by working to remove any barriers to learning. Together with teachers, classroom assistants, the management team and parents, the Learning Support team work with pupils to identify and overcome any difficulties.

The staff at North Berwick High School pool their expertise and knowledge in a team approach to develop strategies to support children with a variety of additional needs. The Support for Learning team reviews these support needs regularly.

### Who are the Support for Learning teachers?

- Experienced class teachers
- Teachers with specialised training
- Members of the support for learning team

### What is the Support for Learning teacher's role in the school?

- Working with class teachers to find the best way to help a child to overcome a difficulty with learning, sharing expertise.
- Planning and teaching special programs, for example Fresh Start, to individuals or small groups on a regular basis.
- Liaising with relevant specialists and agencies.
- Team-teaching or working with the class teacher in the classroom to enable pupils to benefit from everything that is going on in the classroom.
- Assessing and evaluating pupils' work in partnership with colleagues.
- Gathering evidence and arranging support for all National examinations and tests.
- Listening to parents who are worried about their children's learning and offering advice and support.

## Questions parents sometimes ask about Support for Learning

- Q. *Do Support for Learning teachers help children with short-term difficulties?*  
A. Yes. There are times when every child experiences a difficulty with something that he/she is learning. Some pupils may need support after illness or before exams. Support for Learning teachers can support a child for as long as is necessary.
- Q. *Do Support for Learning teachers only focus on improving a child's reading?*  
A. No. Support for Learning teachers do focus on this very important skill which often needs to be tackled first, but all aspects of the curriculum are supported.
- Q. *Sometimes Support for Learning teachers work with children who are coping well with class work. Why is this?*  
A. Able and gifted children may need support and the opportunity to extend their learning skills. Support for Learning teachers can help them with this.
- Q. *Is support offered throughout the school?*  
A. Yes, the Support for Learning teachers work with students from S1-S6. Pupils are also fully supported in their transition from primary to secondary. Early intervention in difficulties is important and therefore pupils new to the school are supported fully.
- Q. *Does every child who is experiencing a learning difficulty get help?*  
A. Yes. The class teacher is always there to help the child and a range of support ideas and strategies will be implemented. In some cases Support for Learning teachers and Pupil Support assistants will work with children in classes. The child's support needs and progress will be monitored. Team-teaching, in-class work or targeted group support with Support for Learning teachers can be offered.
- Q. *What happens if the difficulty is more complicated?*  
A. The Support for Learning team will sometimes discuss the concern further with the class teacher and parents. Together they could decide to seek help from an outside agency, such as a speech therapist or educational psychologist. These people are specially trained to analyse and report on specific difficulties. They will work with parents and the school in a range of ways to support the child.
- Q. *When can I speak to a Support for Learning teacher?*  
A. The Support for Learning team are happy to speak on the telephone or you can make an appointment to see one of us. We are also available at parents' evenings to discuss concerns.