



Occupational Therapy Policy

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**Presented to Safeguarding & Clinical Governance
Governors**

Date of next review: September 2021

Introduction

This policy has clear links to other policies in our school, in particular to the Therapy Policy which is an overarching policy. This Policy specifically identifies the roles of the Occupational Therapy Department.

The Occupational Therapy department provides a specialised service to meet the individual needs of students at Linden Lodge. Occupational Therapy (OT) helps our pupils to be as independent as possible in every aspect of their life at school. Occupational therapy is a person-centred profession concerned with promoting a balanced range of occupations to enhance health and wellbeing

Aims

- To provide a specialist Occupational Therapy service to meet the changing and wide ranging complex needs presented by the children and young people of the school
- To propose adaptations of the service to meet any additional demands presented by the children or young people, e.g. profound and/or multiple disabilities
- To autonomously deliver highly specialist assessments and clinical interventions to support children and young people with OT recommendations on their Education Healthcare Plans.

Assessment

The Occupational Therapists will assess for and provide programmes for therapeutic management of postural needs, sensory and upper limb motor skills development, daily living skills including hand skills, equipment needs to access the curriculum and ensure safe transfers. Additionally, they will work closely with other therapists to provide support around eating and drinking and AAC. Assessment may be formal, where appropriate or informal in nature, including observations in different sessions, play-based sessions and discussions with teaching staff and families.

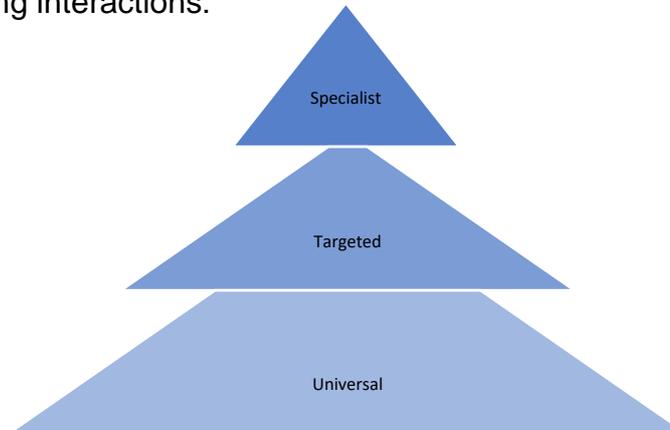
A baseline assessment will be performed on each child with an occupational therapy provision and further reassessment on a yearly basis. This will be aimed at doing in a multi-disciplinary assessment alongside Physiotherapy and Speech and Language Therapy where appropriate.

Delivery

Each OT has a designated caseload that covers each class in the school. The OT has the responsibility for the assessment of pupils in their class, as well as response to any referrals made by the Class team. Therapists are attached to class groups of 6-8 children and work intensively and collaboratively with the other members of the staff team. Working closely with a class team is part of the whole school philosophy and allows therapists to take a holistic approach. Occupational Therapy time is allocated to each class and priority is determined by the needs of the students.

OT deployment in class will be in consultation with the Professional Lead. OT provision can be consultative in nature where implementation of programmes and advice need to be integrated throughout the day.

Therapy will be provided as per the WAVE model and OT involvement may take the form of the following interactions:



Universal: Support for quality teaching for all students

Universal support involves high quality teaching at a whole class/school level. At this level occupational therapist may be involved in building school capacity through:

- Providing professional development opportunities about postural management, sensory impairment, daily living skills and upper limb skills development
- Assisting class to design educational activities that are consistent with the needs of the students
- Assisting teachers to interpret data and to interpret professional reports
- Advising teachers on appropriate resources to support intervention at this level
- Providing support in the development of IEPs.
- Training to staff and parents
- Facilitate the teacher's capacity to generalise successful strategies and implement accommodations to support the student's access to education.

Targeted: Group or whole class therapy sessions

Layer 2 support is class based targeted intervention for students or groups of students identified as at risk of poorer health or wellbeing outcomes. At this level, Occupational Therapists may be involved in:

- Providing sessions that contribute to EHCP/Statement statutory requirements
- Demonstrating and providing class-based therapy sessions for all students or small groups. All staff required to be present.
- Providing support to teachers and assistants to target specific goals and elicit target responses for individual students or groups of students.
- Advising teachers and assistants on appropriate resources to support intervention at this level (e.g. occupational therapists have supported teachers to adapt the motor challenges of classroom tasks which enabled the enhanced participation of children and young people with developmental coordination disorder in school life)
- Teaching dressing skills, upper limb management and fine motor control in the classroom.
- Will assess and devise programmes for daily living skills to include hand skills
- Reviewing that all students have appropriate access the school curriculum, environment and social activities which may require specialist equipment.
- Supporting and advocating those with sensory integration difficulties by providing programmes and advice to class teams
- Providing plans/programmes, where deemed appropriate
- Providing advice for EHCP/AR reports

Specialist: Specialist 1:1 therapy

Specialist intervention would comprise of individual students identified as requiring specialist support to promote their independence. Students will receive Specialist 1:1 therapy if they:

- Predetermine by statutory guidelines
- Use Low or High Tech AAC and require positional and hand function advice and/or mounting

- Identified as needing appropriate equipment to assist with personal care (e.g. slings)
- Assessment and promotion of personal independence in all daily living activities (e.g. feeding, drinking, dressing, toileting and bathing) which may require specialist equipment.
- Assessment and review of appropriate static seating to provide postural stability and promote function. Any equipment needed for static seating in school will be funded by the student's LEA.
- Work in conjunction with the manual handling co-ordinators in school to assess for and provide manual handling equipment (e.g. slings, crickets).
- Liaise and collaborate with Wheelchair Services, who identify and manage appropriate wheelchair(s).
- Have eating and drinking needs that require support to develop independence or support with postural needs. Students may also require support for behavioural/sensory feeding difficulties.
- Referral for home equipment via SSOT
- Students will be assessed or reviewed, receive a set block of therapy and staff will be trained to carry-over the skills

Covid-19 - Due to the lockdown period from March 2020 therapy services at Linden Lodge had to adapt their way of working to provide remote support and services throughout the Summer 2020 term. In autumn term 2020 services are being provided directly on campus, remotely or in a blend of both depending on individual needs. This has led to a period of recovery in the services from August 2020 which is ongoing. A service recovery timeline is available in addition to the standard therapy policies which sees the services working towards full provision of EHCP needs and the resumption of services, as detailed in the policies, within the safety framework of the Linden Lodge risk assessment, professional body and Government guidelines.