Makaton

What is it and why do we use it?

Makaton is a unique language programme which may be used as:

- A systematic, multi-modal approach for the teaching of communication skills; language skills; literacy skills.

- A source of highly functional and flexible key word signing and symbol vocabulary for a person with communication needs and their interactive partners to facilitate social interaction as well as to aid understanding of speech.

- Symbols can provide an effective tool to support emotional regulation as well as understanding the sequence of events/activities.

Who is it for?

The Makaton Developmental Language Programme was originally designed to support the communication skills and develop the language of adults with learning difficulties and hearing loss.

It is now recognised and used effectively as a communication tool for children and adults with a broad range of communication needs, such as those who have difficulties with the following:

Learning difficulties, ASD, hearing loss, attention and listening, understanding speech, understanding what will happen next, developing speech, making themselves understood, telling people what they want, how they feel, their choices and preferences and learning to read and write.

It is crucial to be aware of the need to develop communicative environment as mush as the pupil with communication difficulties. Everybody in the school needs to sign to enable the signer to communicate meaningfully and effectively.

What does it look like?

- Core Vocabulary (450 concepts) selected for their frequency of usage and functionality. Arranged in 8 Stages (and some Additional Vocabulary). There is a Sign and Symbol for each concept.

- Resource vocabulary (11000). This provides a variety of topic vocabulary that can be used to provide personalisation for users and environments.

- Makaton provides Key Word Signage and supports and develops speech - it does not replace speech. Educators should simplify their speech and sign key words to enable pupils to understand them as well as to provide an achievable language model.

- Training is organised at Levels 1 (for stages 1 and 2), 2 (for stages 3.4) and 3 (for stages 5,6,7 and 8)

BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL