

PSS Specialist ICT/AAC Referral Criteria

PSS Specialist ICT provides specialist equipment in order to improve outcomes for learners.

We provide Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to learners in Surrey settings.

There needs to be evidence of:

- Handwriting difficulties, the result of a physical disability, which impact on the recording and retrieval of written work.
- Speech, language and communication needs within a mainstream setting, which require access to an accessible picture-supported talking word processor with word prediction and customised word banks.
- Significant difficulties accessing the curriculum due to a sensory impairment.

We provide Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) for learners in Surrey mainstream settings, specialist centres and special settings to support expressive language if the learner has

- Experience using low tech AAC (e.g. a manual communication board or book) which is insufficient to enable them to realise their communication potential.
- AAC development beyond cause and effect understanding.
- An ability to understand the purpose of a communication aid.
- Receptive language skills commensurate with cognitive skills.

Professional Guidance

The acceptance of a referral to PSS Specialist ICT is based on the following:

- A learner has difficulty accessing standard computer equipment.
- Appropriate hardware, peripherals and curriculum software have been trialled.
- Appropriate low tech communication aids and strategies (e.g. a manual communication board or a communication book) have been trialed and evaluated.
- Appropriate advice has been sought, implemented and evaluated from therapy staff and advisory teachers involved with the learner.

- There is a clear indication or reasonable expectation that technology will lead to a measurable benefit.
- There is an understanding and commitment from the setting to provide the necessary time to implement recommendations.

Support for pupils in Sensory Impairment Specialist Centres will be as advised by the Qualified Teacher in Charge of the centre.

N.B. The majority of ICT equipment e.g. laptops and netbooks will be provided by the setting in line with the Equality Act 2010 and Auxiliary Aids Update (Sept 2012) and their provision under the local offer, however in the most complex cases PSS Specialist ICT provide specialist ICT and/or AAC equipment.