

Banchory Schools Cluster

Additional Support for Learning (ASL)

The Banchory schools cluster comprises Banchory Academy and the following primary schools: Banchory, Hill of Banchory, Crathes, Durris, and Drumoak.

The ASL team across the cluster is committed to supporting young people and working with class teachers to meet the needs of all learners. We also work closely with the pastoral teams in our schools and with a range of partners, such as Sensory Services, Health, Educational Psychology, Social Work, Skills Development Scotland and the English as an Additional Language service. This collaboration ensures that young people are safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, included, respected and responsible as described within the Scottish Government priorities in relation to Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC).

A child or young person may have additional support needs if they are unable to benefit from their school education without help beyond that which is normally given to children or young people of the same age. Most pupils with additional support needs will have their needs met in the classroom by their class teacher. This is called Universal Provision. The class teacher will consult with the ASL team who will offer advice and strategies to best support those pupils. This is the first step in the Staged Intervention process.

The next step would involve consultation and further investigation into the support required and the provision of extra support outside of the mainstream class; for example, literacy or numeracy intervention, nurture, or outdoor learning.

As a cluster, we would usually assess a child for a learning difficulty such as dyslexia after P4 as any identification before this can be unreliable. Dependent on the results of assessment in primary, the pupil may require further assessment in secondary to determine support and assessment arrangements. Please note, a pupil does not need a label, such as dyslexia, to receive support as this is needs based. Similarly, a label, such as dyslexia will not guarantee special arrangements in exams at secondary level as this is also needs based.

Screening and assessment will only take place once strategies and interventions have been tried and are not working. The ASL cluster use the Dyslexia Toolkit and the Autism Toolbox to help with identification and support. Assessment is holistic and is done over time and across contexts using observation, class evidence, parental and child consultation as well as standardised assessments. This can take some time, but the team are committed to informing parents of assessment conclusions within 6-8 weeks. Assessment is then used to inform interventions and support.

The following websites may be useful:

<http://asn-aberdeenshire.org/>

<http://addressingdyslexia.org/>

<http://www.autismtoolbox.co.uk/>