

Personal and Social Skills

This area is concerned with the pupil's ability to appreciate the significance of physical and social contexts and their awareness of the implications of these in relation to the social culture in which they live. It is an essential part of the curriculum if pupils with complex needs are to make decisions, use their skills and abilities appropriately and effectively and exert some degree of control over their experiences.

The educational aims which underpin this area are:

- Provide experiences and encourage the development of cognitive processes which will promote understanding of the immediate environment and society in which the pupils live.
- Promote progress through early patterns of response to establish intentional and purposeful behaviours.
- Promote the use of effective learning strategies and a repertoire of actions what will enable pupils to exert some degree of control over personal experiences.
- Establish interaction with others and the ability to maintain attention in external stimuli or referents.
- Extend competence in a variety of activities so that the pupils can occupy themselves purposefully without adult supervision.
- Facilitate understanding of familiar surroundings and events.
- Establish the ability to make considered choices and decisions in a variety of situations.

Range of Activities (Some suggestions)

- Classroom activities – turn taking, sharing, communication aids, switch work and environmental control.
- Meal times / break times – indicating a choice, appropriate behaviour, participation in familiar routine.
- Personal care – appropriate behaviour, co-operation, participation in a familiar routine.
- Special occasions e.g. Birthdays, Assemblies, whole school events which involve social customs which pupils should be helped to recognise and to participate as members of a larger group.
- Understanding of the wider community – visits to public places, attending traditional and seasonal community events, fundraising activities.