

HOW CAN WE HELP IN SCHOOL? KS3 & KS4

Supporting Attention & Listening Skills

- Consider the pupils' position in the classroom. Are they:
 - able to see the teacher easily?
 - able to hear the teacher easily?
 - comfortable? Near any visual distractions (e.g. a fish tank?)
 - near any auditory distractions (e.g. from the corridor or an adjacent classroom?)
- Make sure the pupil understands what is expected of them, for example when working in pairs, or in groups, that group rules of taking turns, listening etc apply
- Explain to the pupil exactly what is meant by attending and listening to the teacher (e.g. looking at the teacher, hands on the desk)
- Provide the pupil with a positive replacement behaviour for any behaviours which you are trying to eliminate, for example 'good waiting', for a pupil who is interrupting or finding it hard when it is not their turn
- Consider whether the pupil has any associated comprehension difficulties making it difficult for them to access the lesson
- Use the pupil's name and check that they have responded before giving an instruction. The response may be in the form of eye contact or acknowledging verbally that they heard you. Pupil's with an autism spectrum disorder may not be able to make eye contact in the way you would expect of another pupil; they may also struggle to look and listen simultaneously due to the amount of information they are being required to process
- Break tasks down into short sections and give the pupil a short break between each one. Provide visual support where possible
- Ask the pupil to repeat an instruction back to you if you are not sure that they have heard you

If you require any further support/advice please contact via the following email

walsall.slt@nhs.net

In the subject line please state **FAO Virtual School SLCN Support** to ensure your message is actioned by the relevant team.