

What is support for speech, language & communication needs like in your school?

Having a discussion, reflecting on your own school

There is a lot of information in *Bercow: Ten Years On*, so having a discussion about the findings will help you to focus on the key issues for your school. Reflecting on the current support in your school may help you to think how you can take action.

- Decide on a good time to have a discussion. This could be a staff meeting, part of an inset day, or a twilight professional development session. There may be another way you want to use this material such as an email questionnaire, or online forum, or at a local SENCO meeting.
- At the meeting, look at the checklist showing key features of effective school-based support for children and young people with SLCN.
- The document 'Key features of effective practice in schools' on www.bercow10yearson.com/supportingchange explains these a bit more.
- Use the list to think about your school, take each point and, as a group, decide whether this happens. Remember there is no one right answer, it will look different in every school. For example:
 - In one school there was no one leader with responsibility for spoken language or SLCN. Instead, each department had a language and literacy lead.
 - In another school the assistant head for teaching and learning led the development of spoken language across the curriculum and the school SENCo coordinated training in SLCN.

The important thing is that it is clear which member of staff or team is taking the lead on the issue of SLCN.

- Use the list as a starting point for discussion. Here are some more questions:
 - What does each one look like in our school?
 - What are our strength and challenges?
 - Where are the gaps?
- Think of what changes you want to happen, write these up in an action plan, and identify top priorities - two or three actions is good! Decide who needs to be involved and who will lead. Agree a date when you will review this again.

Once you have had a discussion, and identified things you might want to do, look on www.bercow10yearson.com/resources and see if there are tools to help you take action.