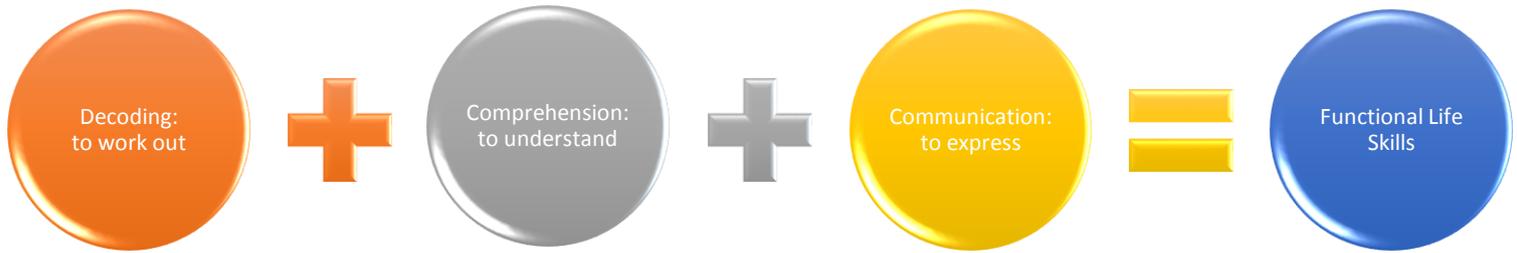


Life Skills and Communication Policy

Life Skills



Functional life skills aid navigation and understanding of the wider world with the ability to problem solve. To successfully embed life skills in teaching and learning, we need to question:

- What is being worked out?
- Is this learning understood?
- How can we communicate and express new learning?

The Ultimate Goal: Transferrable English and maths skills across the curriculum and lifelong learning; using embedded and partially embedded strategies.

		Functional Life Skills Terminology; Literacy		
		Decoding	Comprehension	Communication
Traditional English Skills	Reading	Ability to access written text or visual representations	To contextualise and understand words, phrases or text	To read and obtain information from different sources
	Writing	Ability to write through sounds, words and punctuation	To contextualise and understand how to write through sounds, words and punctuation	To communicate information to an intended audience
	Speaking and listening	Ability to access information through verbalised or signed communication	To contextualise and understand information through verbalised or signed communication	To communicate information, opinions and ideas in the appropriate context and form

Functional Life Skills Terminology; Numeracy				
		Decoding	Comprehension	Communication
Number		Find, read and understand information given by quantities, numbers, symbols and diagrams	Specify, solve and describe a practical problem or task using quantities, numbers, symbols and diagrams	Present and explain results and mathematical information to show an understanding of the intended purpose using quantities, numbers, symbols and diagrams
Measure, shape, space		Find, read and understand information given by time, measure, temperature and direction	Specify, solve and describe a practical problem or task using measure, shape and space	Present and explain results and mathematical information to show an understanding of the intended purpose using measure, shape and space

Data Handling	Find, read and understand information given by charts, graphs and recorded relevant information	Specify, solve and describe a practical problem or task using data from diagrams, charts and recorded relevant information	Present and explain results and mathematical information to show an understanding of the intended purpose using diagrams, charts and recorded relevant information
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Communication



Communication is taught and used in a variety of ways at Brackenfield School. Communication lessons aim to:

- Support functional skills and enhance communication at every opportunity
- Encourage and help pupils become independent and sociable young adults at every given opportunity
- Help each pupil to be vocal and express their own individual needs and wants through a variety of different approaches, ie Makaton signing, Communicate in Print and PECS symbols.

The Elklan programme is also used to help understand and encourage communication. Colourful semantics are used to help the pupils with sentence structure and content.

Elklan Programme

The Elklan Programme is designed to support children with communication difficulties, particularly pupils with processing, understanding or physical difficulties. It involves assessing the individual needs and then ensuring that work and support is supportive of their level of need. It consists of planned activities that support and develop the appropriate language for where they are and their use of processing information and sequencing using a variety of interesting and fun lessons.

Colourful Semantics Using subject (orange), verb (yellow), object (green) and adjective (blue) cards, the pupil will begin to construct simple questions and use the coloured cards to create simple sentences to assist with reading and writing development. The sentences are constructed based on an action picture, which they then use the words to describe and communicate about.

Functional Life Skills and Communication Overview

This allows us to map, track and plan progression for our pupils throughout their learning journey. It identifies next steps, highlights area of development and the strategies and delivery we provide in school to reach the final goal; We can also see teaching and learning methods which will not be

appropriate for certain language learning styles. Each pupil within school can be mapped on our overview, allow effective quality assurance of all aspects of teaching and learning delivery.