

Who should I contact?

Initial queries should be directed to the child's Speech and Language Therapist on 0191 2832484.

For further information about the Speech and Language Unit, or for educational advice, contact Mrs. Donna Watson, Teacher in Charge of Hedworthfield Speech and Language Unit and Outreach Service, on 0191 5373373 or 07817 875019.

Hedworthfield Speech and  
Language Unit



### What is the Language Unit?

The Language Unit is situated within Hedworthfield Primary School in Jarrow. It consists of two separate classes, each staffed by a specialist teacher and specialist Nursery Nurses. In total, the Language Unit can accommodate up to 24 primary aged children, allowing for a high level of support for every child. Children in the Language Unit are integrated with their mainstream peers within Hedworthfield Primary as appropriate, with shared assemblies, lunchtimes, break times, PE lessons and some Topic lessons.

NHS-provided Specialist Speech and Language Therapists are based within the Language Unit across the school week. This enables the delivery of regular speech and language therapy sessions within the school day. The child may be seen individually, within a small group or within their classroom setting. Speech and Language Therapists and teaching staff work closely in supporting the child's speech, language and educational needs. This involves shared target setting between the Speech and Language Therapist and the child's class teacher.

### Who should access the Language Unit?

The child has severe and persistent speech disorder and/or Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) identified by a Speech and Language Therapist. The child's speech and language difficulty are their primary/main need impacting on their ability to access a mainstream curriculum. They have demonstrated a readiness and ability to respond to intensive speech and language intervention and would benefit from continued support at this level, alongside specialist teaching provision.

### How is the service accessed?

Children will usually have had a period of intensive intervention provided by the Outreach Service. The Speech and Language Therapist, together with the Teacher in Charge of the Speech and

Language Unit and Outreach Service, would recommend the child for a place within the Language Unit. Their case will be presented at a termly panel meeting. Members of the panel will discuss the child and offer a place in the Language Unit, where appropriate.

### How long will the child remain in the Language Unit?

Placement in the Language Unit is not time limited and will be reviewed based on the child's individual needs. In all cases, any changes would be discussed with parents in a timely manner.

- It may be that the child has made significant progress and no longer requires intensive therapy, or the level of support that the Language Unit provides. In this situation, they can return to their mainstream school.
- In some cases, a period of time in the Language Unit may reveal that the child's speech and language difficulty is no longer their main area of need. In these cases it may be decided, in agreement with parents and other professionals, that an alternative provision is required.
- Some children require an ongoing placement in the Language Unit until the end of year 6. Parents will be supported in identifying the most appropriate secondary provision.