

Joint Communication Team - Service Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you are keeping well during this challenging and unprecedented time.

- We are currently not offering face-to-face appointments within schools or clinic for children in mainstream school. This is in line with recommendations around Covid-19 and taking precautions to keep service users and staff safe at this time.
- We are in continued liaison with school SENCOs and class teachers, providing advice and discussing children who are currently known to our service.
- We are currently providing 'remote' assessments and liaison with families and children – this is happening via 'Webex' online virtual meetings, telephone calls and letters/reports being sent home. This has been a fairly steep learning curve for us as a service and we are trialling this for longer term to enable us to support families and children with speech, language and communication needs.
- We are updating our Twitter page (see below) frequently with ideas/games/strategies/apps for home to support communication.
- Please be aware that when Speech and Language Therapists are contacting parents/carers via telephone, the phone number will appear as 'withheld'.

Some key websites we recommend for parents/carers for further information and support:

- [www.talkingpoint.org.uk](http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk)
- [www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk)
- [www.bexleyvoice.org.uk](http://www.bexleyvoice.org.uk)
- [www.afasic.org.uk](http://www.afasic.org.uk)

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact us at:

Acorns, Children and Young People's Services, Queen Mary's Hospital, Froggnal Avenue,  
Sidcup, Kent, DA14 6LT  
Tel: 0203 004 0092

Email: [oxl-tr.bexleyscs-spa@nhs.net](mailto:oxl-tr.bexleyscs-spa@nhs.net)

Follow us on Twitter:  [#bexleybrightideas@BexleySLT](https://twitter.com/#bexleybrightideas@BexleySLT)

*The Joint Communication Team was set up in recognition of the needs of pupils with specific communication difficulties attending mainstream schools. The JCT is an integrated team of Health and Education Professionals: a Specialist Teacher, Speech and Language Therapists, Speech and Language Therapy Assistants (SALSA)*