

Bishop Vaughan Catholic School

Secondary Language Link

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### What?

Secondary Language Link is a unique, comprehensive package for supporting students with SLCN and those new to English. The package combines a robust standardised assessment, with planned and fully resourced targeted small group interventions and a staff training toolkit. This powerful suite enables secondary schools to identify and support the language and communication needs of Key Stage 3 students aged 11-14 years.



### Why?

The development of language skills does not stop at the end of primary school. Students continue to learn new vocabulary, understand more complex language and use their talking for a wider range of purposes into and beyond Key Stage 3.

The importance of good understanding and functional communication skills are well recognised as essential for literacy development, academic success and enabling students to engage with both the curriculum and their peers. However, difficulties with language can be hard to identify and are commonly disguised by challenging behaviour or poor attainment leading to language and communications needs being missed or misidentified.

The Secondary Language Link online standardised assessment is used universally to screen language comprehension in year 7 students and then to track progress throughout KS3. It is administered to groups of students and is audio supported, placing minimal demands on literacy skills.

The content reflects the daily demands faced by young people to understand language both in the classroom and in conversation with peers. The format is varied including video, interactive classroom, and picture selection formats, making it an engaging experience. The assessment covers:

- following classroom instructions
- understanding complex sentences
- concept vocabulary
- processing information
- social understanding

Following the assessment, student and class reports are generated automatically, allowing staff to quickly and easily identify where extra support is needed and to know what level of input is required. This data enables senior leaders to set targets and develop action plans to address barriers to learning across the school.