

Purchase of equipment following assessment

Suffolk County Council policy on the funding for specialist equipment such as computers and assistive technology is laid out within the Special Educational Needs & Disability Policy & Practise Handbook.

Section 5. SEN Funding 5.12

Schools are expected to provide access to the necessary specialist equipment such as laptop computers, adapted switches and specific aids. Special schools will be expected to provide the specialist equipment required by any pupil (with the exception of communication aids or radio hearing aids) from their capital allocations. Mainstream schools will be expected to provide annually equipment costing up to 50% of the per capita allowance if the child is of primary age, and up to the full per capita allowance applicable under the Suffolk LMS scheme if the child is of secondary age.

Schools may wish to explore alternative funding options such as charities or The Access Initiative Fund when available.

The Assessment team consists of:

- Senior Paediatric Occupational Therapist—Jane Dolan.
- Advanced Skills Teacher for ICT – Eileen Perrins.
- County Technician for Communication and Access - Rob Smith.

The service benefits from the advice of a specialist speech and language therapist, who provides guidance, and attends assessments for pupils who require a joint communication / ICT assessment.

All ICT referrals should be sent to Thomas Wolsey School. The referral form can be downloaded from the Documents page of our website at:

www.thomaswolseyoutreach.co.uk

Completed forms should be sent to:

Jane Dolan
Outreach Service
Thomas Wolsey School
Defoe Road
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP1 6SG

Tel 01473 467607

Email: office@thomaswolseyoutreach.co.uk



▶ **ICT Assessment Service**





The ICT Assessment Service is part of the County Outreach Team and offers assessment and advice on using technology to facilitate access to learning and the curriculum. The service is available to any pupil with a physical disability attending a mainstream school in Suffolk. We provide specialist assessment for a wide ability range, from pupils with profound and multiple learning disabilities who are at an early stage of development, to literate cognitively able pupils.

The assessment centre is resourced with the latest technology—this includes a wide variety of switches, keyboard and mouse alternatives, many different items of software including speech recognition, and an environmental control system. These have the potential to improve ICT access for a wide range of pupils.

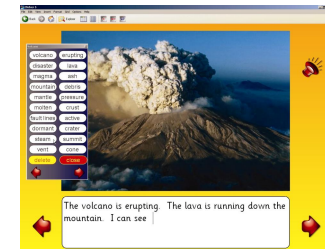
The service can:

- Provide an ICT assessment and report, with advice and recommendations.
- Give a child an opportunity to try a variety of pieces of hardware and software.
- Advise on suitable software, and use of technology for curriculum access from pre-school to high school level.
- Provide training in the use of software and digital imaging to create personal learning activities and digital portfolios. Regular training sessions on using the Clicker software is available to schools and parents - please contact us for more information.
- Liaise with mainstream school staff working with a child. This may include practical help to adapt existing ICT equipment and use software applications to support the curriculum.

Each area of Suffolk has an identified ICT Advisory teacher who will assess pupils with less complex needs, e.g. pupils who can be assessed in their own schools, who do not require the specialist equipment available in the Assessment Room at Thomas Wolsey School.

Equipment and strategies tried at assessment might include:

- The use of switches to access the computer and assistive technology.
- Keyboard and mouse alternatives to improve access.
- Software to develop the child's knowledge of cause and effect, and control of their environment.
- Software to improve the child's ability to record their work, and participate in the curriculum subjects at a differentiated level.



Assessments take place at Thomas Wolsey School in Ipswich. Children are asked to attend with a member of school staff who knows them well and is familiar with the difficulties they encounter. Parents or carers are also welcome to attend.