

Principles of Practice: Therapy Providers as Visitors at Turner School

The following principles guide our practice and decision making and are reflected in the accompanying flowchart.

- Turner School is an educational setting and works to meet the educational goals of students. Where possible the school asks families to arrange for regular therapy sessions to occur out of school.
- Turner School values the professional expertise of therapists, both private and Directorate Network Student Engagement Team (NSET) therapists and welcomes their input to ILP goals and strategies and individual plans.
- Classroom teachers have the lead role in planning the learning program for their class and work collaboratively with Learning Support Assistants, the team leader and the Disability Coordinator to implement and monitor the learning program. Additional adults in the room such as visiting therapists have an impact on the class learning routines and in managing children, particularly those with complex needs and as such additional visiting adults need to be minimised.
- A fair decision making process will be applied by the school prior to any therapy agreement being made. Any therapy at school should align with educational goals and support the achievement of these goals.
- The school maintains an in-class model for all student support (in both large and small group classes). Therapy that is designed to be conducted on a withdrawal basis is to be arranged for out of school hours. (e.g. ABA is not recommended by Directorate therapists in an education setting as it is used on an intensive 1:1 withdrawal model to teach skills).
- As part of any agreement, visitors to schools should only interact with the child receiving therapy. No regular therapy should occur in the playground at Turner School as interactions with other students are not manageable (Playground observations, however, may be made and are to be supported by school DECO).
- All therapists working with students out of school hours may access one observation visit each term.
- As part of any agreement with a therapist, a timeframe and review date will be set.
- The school will closely monitor the impact of visitors in classes and review accordingly.
- All therapy provider visits to Turner School are coordinated through the school's Disability Coordinator.

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