

Waves of Support

Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) provision at Light Years can take place at 4 levels or 'waves', with wave 1 being the whole school support that influences what is offered universally within the setting, and wave 4 being direct contact with a SaLT and/or OT. While a significant role of the SaLT and/or OT is to support at a whole school level, impact is greatest when SaLTs and OT's can work directly with teachers and classes; to support the application of the wave 1 focus in a practical way. Any regular face to face contact with a SaLT and/or OT is wave 4.

Class work at wave 4 can be more effective at enabling functional progress than 1:1 work. Because the SaLT/OT and the teacher(s) are partners in the development of communication skills that are relevant to the needs of the whole class group, pupils learn in a more naturalistic context and the adults have a greater capacity to thread the learning through the day. This often leads to better progress and, most importantly, better application of these skills in real life. Wave 4 1:1 work is helpful when pupils need to work on something the rest of the class do not, it is unclear how best to support that pupil in class, or the pupil needs significant levels of differentiation from the rest of the group. Both can be provided by the SaLT and OT and which is most appropriate will be decided based on individual pupil needs.

An overview of the waves:

