

Sensory & Communication (Years 7-13)

(KS3 - 5)

The Sensory and Communication Department sits alongside the Middles and Seniors Departments at Le Murier. It provides education that meets the needs of students with learning, sensory, communication and physical disabilities and difficulties. The Sensory and Communication Department offers a flexible approach to the curriculum focusing on skills that matter to this student group. Areas of focus include communication, choice making and social skills, personal development (looking at behaviour and coping skills, developing tolerance, confidence, self-help and independence), movement and body awareness (including therapeutic massage and hydrotherapy) as well as numeracy, literacy and information skills. The department is split into groups according to their needs. Multidisciplinary input is sought for assessment, the setting of objectives and joint classroom working. Teaching and learning approaches used may include Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), visual schedules and work systems, principles of TEACCH, objects of reference, sensory diet, Signalong and Intensive Interaction.



Residential

Throughout the student's time in school they will have the opportunity to take part in residential experiences, either in Guernsey or further afield. We would seek parents' support in encouraging all students to go on residential as they are an important element of the curriculum and are key to developing independence, positive attitudes and social skills.



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Our Curriculum

All students enter Le Murier school on the **Life Skills Pathway** to develop their independence, communication and living skills. Some students may spend all their time at Le Murier developing these skills and focussing on this pathway. Ongoing assessment, target setting and personal development determine whether or when students move onto the **Work Skills Pathway** where they can extend these skills for gaining and sustaining employment.

The Life Skills Pathway

Students on this pathway are likely to take much longer to become independent and in some cases may need to live in supported provision, either at home, with their families, or in supported living for most of their lives. Some of these students may seek supported employment at some stage but it is likely that this will be some time away and so a greater emphasis is placed on the development of life skills for these students. Opportunities may be given to run in-house enterprise activities with support where they may begin to develop some of the skills that could be used in a supported employment context in the future.



The Work Skills Pathway

Students on this pathway are likely to become independent learners, most will get jobs and live independent lives with their own families. They may work towards gaining Numeracy, Literacy and ICT qualifications. Some students may also attend vocational Link courses at the College of Further Education. When students show a readiness in employability skills they are given the opportunity to undertake some work experiences with local employers

Core Skills

- ✦ Communicating
- ✦ Coordinating
- ✦ Participating
- ✦ Observing
- ✦ Following instructions
- ✦ Locating
- ✦ Being safe
- ✦ Organising
- ✦ Valuing & respecting
- ✦ Thinking and Problem Solving
- ✦ Using and Applying

It is our aim to cover the above core skills across the curriculum and help to make each student as independent as possible.



Le Murier is divided into three departments

Middles

Seniors

Sensory and Communication

Middles (KS 3) (Years 7 - 9) for students aged 11 - 14.

Here the students work in teams, and most of the work is centred around a theme for each term. The students are put into groups according to their needs in all areas of the curriculum. A special emphasis is placed upon providing the correct support to enable improvement in numeracy and literacy

Seniors (Years 10 + 11) (KS4) - students aged 14-16.

By this stage in a student's education, the curriculum pathway to be followed becomes clearer. The Life Skills pathway specialises in the acquisition of life skills including travel, home skills and social skills and appropriate levels of literacy, numeracy and information skills. Those students on the Work Skills Pathway will focus on the acquisition of skills for work and includes careers work, work experience and appropriate levels of literacy, numeracy and information skills. Students may have the opportunity to attend the College of Further Education, sometimes in discreet groups and at other times mixing with mainstream students.