

A Pen Portrait

Heidi

Heidi is a very sociable 14 year old young lady who enjoys being with her friends both at school and at home. Everyone who knows her says that she is happy and great fun to be around. She has a very inquisitive nature and enjoys learning. Heidi is very clear that she wants to be like everyone else in her class – she wants to achieve, do well and to be as independent as possible.

Like all other teenage girls, Heidi enjoys make up, clothes, the latest pop group and chatting about boys.

Heidi has a full Statement of Special Needs which details her needs and the provision to meet them.

She has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy affecting all four limbs. This means that she finds walking difficult, using her hands difficult as well as using her voice to communicate. Heidi also has moderate learning difficulties and is attaining about Level 2 of the National Curriculum for all subjects

To help Heidi access the curriculum and learning opportunities at school, she has a transdisciplinary team consisting of her family, teacher, classrooms assistance, her enabler, physiotherapist, OT and of course, Heidi herself. This team look at the short and long term goals and ensure that they are put in place.

Heidi uses a powered chair at school to take herself to lessons. As she finds speech difficult, she uses a combination of 'high tech and low tech' communication aids such as her Tough Book and Communication File. Heidi's enable works in partnership with the teachers to ensure that all her communication systems are programmed and have the relevant vocabulary for the lessons. In lessons, Heidi needs to be given time to process what is asked of her as well as time to be able to construct sentences on her Tough Book – sometimes, Heidi finds it frustrating that she can't do this quickly.

Heidi's enabler has responsibility for supporting Heidi throughout the school day and to ensure the OT and physiotherapy programmes are delivered throughout the day in her lessons