

## **TRANSCRIPT: Working with teaching assistants - ethos**

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Learning Support Workers are essential to the running of a special school. They have an amazing rapport with the pupils. They have excellent skills with all the communication strategies we use and every Learning Support Worker will have a skill set which is really individual to them.

I think, the biggest thing that's really important when working with my LSWs is respect - respect for what they do and, hopefully, respect for what I do. I would never ask my LSW to do something that I wasn't happy with doing myself. I try and make sure everything's explained clearly and don't just assume that they know what you're thinking and what's required of them.

We have a class team meeting once a term and that's really important, especially at the beginning of September, so the LSWs know what I'm expecting of them, and during that meeting I'll explain my systems.

We have a whiteboard in the classroom that we jot daily notes on and we also have a system of *Post-it* notes. On the *Post-it* notes the LSWs might, or myself, we'll write down an observation that's relating to the individual target that they're working on. And then we have individual files with the children's photos on where the *Post-it* notes go into. Then, at the end of each week, I will collate the *Post-it* notes in an observation sheet.

It's not just about communicating what's happening in the classroom. Getting to know your LSWs, having a rapport with them, I think's incredibly important and helps the day-to-day running of a smooth class.