

## Top Tips for a Communication Friendly Classroom

### Background Noise

- Reduce background noise during direct teaching by shutting doors and windows.
- Reduce background noise during direct teaching by turning off computers, projectors, music etc.
- Reduce background noise during direct teaching by moving working groups as far as reasonably possible from the main teaching area.

### Visual timetables

- Visual timetables should be the same across the setting in orientation and presentation i.e. top/down, colours used.
- Visual timetables should be easily visible to all pupils in class e.g. next to the white board.
- Refer to the visual timetable throughout the day and use a consistent system across the setting e.g. remove symbols when the activity is complete, or move the arrow marker to the next activity.

### Visuals

- Ensure all resources within classrooms are labelled clearly with a picture and text.
- Label key learning areas in class and ensure these relate to any learning areas identified on the visual timetable
- Keep class rules short and supported with visuals; ensure they are referred to in class when needed.

### Transitions

- Use children's names to warn them when a change is coming.
- Repeat and chunk instructions with pauses to support pupils understanding.
- Use timers, a visual countdown or warning to mark that the end of an activity is coming up.

### Display Boards

- Have clear displays using pictures, objects and written words to reinforce curriculum topics – highlight the key vocabulary.
- Have a working wall where children can add words that they learn and use this to talk about the words added.
- Model to children how to use the display boards when doing independent work.