

## The Engagement Model – Information for families

In September 2020 we started using the Engagement Model to monitor and understand progress for our PMLD cohort. This model is based on the idea that students must be engaged to learn. This means we have to understand our learners' interests and motivations to ensure we provide appropriate learning opportunities.

The Engagement Model looks at five different ways students can show they are engaged:

**Exploration** - *How the learner demonstrates awareness of, and purposeful interaction with, a stimulus (object, activity or person). They might track an object moving, reach out towards it or turn their head towards it.*

**Realisation** - *How the learner demonstrates they can control or change a stimulus or activity. They might become excited if they press a switch and something happens or they make marks in paint.*

**Anticipation** - *How the learner shows anticipation. They might still as staff say "ready, steady..." or smile and laugh on seeing a favourite toy or activity.*

**Persistence** *How the learner demonstrates continued effort within the activity. They might persist in vocalising to attract attention or try and maintain their head position to look at something.*

**Initiation** *How the learner requests an activity or does something new in the activity. They might reach out, vocalise or make eye contact.*

Each learner has an Engagement Profile – this describes what engagement looks like for each child in the five areas above. This Engagement Profile is used by all staff working with the student and allows new behaviours and small steps of progress to be quickly spotted. Using the Engagement Model allows us to have a common language in school around learning and progress.

The Engagement Model does not have set targets or stages that the learners must progress through, we will continue to use iASEND and Education, Health and Care Plan targets for formal assessment. The Engagement Model supports ongoing assessment by focussing on the child as an individual and looking at their own learning journey. All of our students are unique and the Engagement Model allows us to monitor their small steps of progress across the five areas – there is no set route or criteria they have to meet to progress. Each day, our staff teams reflect on how the students have demonstrated their engagement that day, this is then built upon to increase opportunities for engagement the following day.

The more opportunities there are to engage = the more chances our pupils have to learn!