



Makaton at Riverside

At Riverside Makaton signs are used wherever possible to promote communication and access to the curriculum for students with a wide range of learning and communication difficulties. Most classes employ a multi-modal approach in their teaching incorporating sign, symbol (we use widgit symbols used within the communicate in print programme), written word, gesture and images along with speech. This promotes progress in receptive and expressive language, literacy and general access to learning. Signs and visual support are also used during assemblies, (where we regularly learn songs to sing and sign).

A staff member is a Makaton Regional tutor and over 30 members of the school community are trained to Makaton foundation level. As a signing community it is important that this group includes school leaders, teachers, special needs assistants, therapists, admin staff and the school nurse. Staff from Woodside school (our co-located mainstream secondary school), Haringey Tuition Centre and from a local inclusive theatre company also trained at Riverside. Other staff are trained to enhanced level and Makaton courses are be offered to parents, carers and siblings.



Headteacher Martin Doyle BA (Hons), Adv.Dip.Ed, NPQH

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INTRODUCTION TO MAKATON / DAVID WILSON.

Dear Parents

Riverside School is a Makaton friendly school. This means that we use the Makaton Language System to support the communication needs of our students. Makaton uses signs (very similar to British Sign Language Signs but used in a very different way), and symbols to improve the access to communication and language development for most of our student.

All day our students will see and sometimes use Makaton signs and many parents have commented that their child uses these at home. At annual review meetings this term many parents and carers expressed that they would like to learn more about how they can support the communication of their child through the use of sign.

This term we will be running a short 1-hour introduction to Makaton at Riverside School for any family members of our students. We will explain a little about the system and learn a few common and useful signs. Following this in the Autumn term if there is sufficient interest a formal Makaton accredited course will be offered which over 4 sessions introduces many of the signs and symbols in the core vocabulary.

The introduction to Makaton session will run on Thursday 14th July, one during the school day (10.50 to 11.50) and one after school (3.45-4.45). If you would like to attend please sign the slip below indicating the session(s) you are able to attend and return this to the school office.

Warm Regards

David Wilson (team leader and Makaton Tutor)

I am able to attend the following Introduction to Makaton session(s) (please tick)

Thursday 14th July, during the school day (10.50 to 11.50) _____

Thursday 14th July, after school (3.45-4.45) _____

Signed _____ Parent of _____ Date _____

10 people attended. 7 x family members, 2 x SMSAs and 1 x Team Spirit volunteer. All seemed to enjoy and appreciate the training, relaxed during the day and increased their confidence to sign. The course concludes this Saturday when there will be a formal evaluation.

David Wilson,

Riverside School Wood Green ILC White Hart Lane
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Makaton Beginners Course for parents, siblings and family members.

The above course is being offered to parent, carers and siblings of Riverside students.

Where: Riverside School

When: Saturday 4th and Saturday 11th November

Times: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Makaton is an internationally recognised sign and symbol language programme specifically designed for people with learning difficulties. Many of our students use/follow Makaton signs in school and many parents have asked how they can learn to use Makaton signing to help communication with their child.

The Makaton Beginners course is an intensive 2-day course which introduces the signs/symbols from stages 1-4 of the core vocabulary. It covers approximately 120 of the most useful words/concepts, along with how best to introduce and use these signs when communicating with your child.

It is a nationally recognized certificated course; upon completion you will receive a certificate recognised by all schools and centres working with young people with learning difficulties. **People attending the course must be able to commit to attend on both days for the full day.**

The cost of the course is £10 to cover some of the cost of course materials (module booklets and copies of all signs). We will each bring along a dish for a shared lunch. If you require crèche facilities please contact Sarah Doyle (Deputy Head). If you need further information please contact me on the above number or by email at davidw@riverside.haringey.sch.uk.

Please sign and return the slip below asap as places are limited to the first 12 people.

Yours sincerely

David Wilson (Team 2 leader at Riverside and qualified Makaton trainer)

Name of Riverside Student _____

I/we would like to attend the Makaton Beginners course on Saturday 4th and 11th November

Name(s) _____ Relationship _____ Contact No _____

_____ to student _____ Contact No _____

Riverside School, Haringey

Gathering evidence re the use and effectiveness of Makaton signs and symbols and Multi-modal teaching

SMT - whenever you observe a lesson please could you complete the information below and grade the lesson on a scale from 1 to 10 according to the use and effectiveness of Makaton. In this way we can obtain a baseline from the lessons observed this term and note any increase over the terms as more staff attend the Makaton training and gain their foundation or enhancement certification. Assemblies can also be monitored using the same scale.

Name of teacher		Support staff			
Date		Class		Subject	
Use and effectiveness of Makaton observed during the lesson. Circle appropriate number on scale according to descriptions below	<p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>				
Comments					

Point on scale	Use and effectiveness of Makaton observed during the lesson
1	No use of Makaton signing or symbols observed. No visual support provided.
2	Some use of photos/visual images to support student learning
3	Limited use of symbols and visual images to support student access to the curriculum. No signing.
4	More effective use of symbols and photos/images, no signing.
5	Symbols used well, signing by one or more members of support staff observed
6	Symbols used effectively, signing used by teacher and/or support staff to support an individual or small group of students
7	Symbols used effectively, signing used in main part of lesson to support the learning of all students in the class. Students occasionally use sign in their communication.
8	Effective use of multi-modal teaching employed by the teacher in part of the lesson (sign, symbol, speech, photos and visual images all employed). Students use some limited signing in their communication
9	Effective use of multi-modal teaching employed by the teacher throughout the lesson (sign, symbol, speech, photos and visual images all employed). Students use sign effectively to communicate
10	A true multi-modal classroom - sign, symbol, speech, photos and visual images used throughout by both teacher and support staff. Students use sign and/or symbols effectively to support their communication.

MAKATON[®]

What is Makaton?

Makaton is a language programme using signs and symbols to help people communicate. It is designed to support spoken language and the signs and symbols are used with speech in spoken word order.

With Makaton, children and adults can communicate straight away using the signs and symbols. Many people then drop the signs or symbols naturally at their own pace, as they develop speech.

Makaton is highly flexible as it can be personalised to the individual's needs and used at a level suitable for them. For those who have experienced the frustration of being unable to communicate meaningfully or effectively, Makaton can be a revelation and a bridge to greater confidence and self-esteem.

"I love the way that Makaton has enabled my son to develop his speech and make himself understood. It was like a light coming on when he very first used it and was understood."



How is Makaton used?

Makaton uses signs, symbols and speech to help people communicate. Signs are used with speech in spoken word order. Using signs can help people who have no speech or whose speech is unclear.

Symbols can be used to support communication in many different ways. Using symbols can help people who have limited speech and those who cannot, or prefer not to sign.



Spreading the benefits as widely as possible

The Makaton Charity uses a cascade approach to sharing Makaton. This sustainable model ensures that the maximum amount of people can benefit from using Makaton.



Training. We provide training to parents, carers and professionals, via our nationwide network of licensed tutors and trainers. There are currently over 1,000 licensed Makaton Tutors and Trainers across the UK, delivering training to over 30,000 parents, carers and professionals each year.



Resources. We develop and produce a wide range of printed and electronic resources, from nursery rhyme DVDs to vocabulary books covering complex subjects such as bereavement and electronic collections of signs and symbols for computer use.



Information. We work with others to make information accessible. For example, we have worked with Local Councils to translate materials using Makaton symbols so that Makaton users can vote in local elections, and with housing associations to provide information about the services they offer.



Support. We offer advice and support to families and professionals. For example our free Family Advisory Service provides information and support to parents and family members of people with a learning or communication difficulty and to the professionals working with them.



Influence. We work in partnership to influence society and empower people. For example, we work with organisations such as The National Portrait Gallery, Her Majesty's Court Service and the BBC to promote communication and make Makaton available so that more people are able to participate.

MAKATON[®]
The Makaton Charity

Helping people communicate

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Registered Charity number: 1119819 • Registered Company number: 06280106

Makaton is very flexible and can be used to:

- Share thoughts, choices and emotions
- Label real objects, pictures, photos and places
- Take part in games and songs
- Listen to, read and tell stories
- Create recipes, menus, shopping lists
- Write letters and messages
- Help people find their way around public buildings

Who uses Makaton?

Today over 100,000 children and adults use Makaton symbols and signs, either as their main method of communication or as a way to support speech.



People with learning or communication difficulties: Makaton is the UK's leading language programme for adults and children with learning or communication difficulties. It is also used by everyone who shares their lives for example, parents and other family members, friends and care and education and health professionals.



People seeking to develop their language and literacy skills: Makaton is used for teaching communication, language and literacy skills with children and adults who are at an early stage of communication and language development. This structured approach can also help people who are learning English as an additional language, helping them to communicate straightaway, while also supporting their learning.



Mainstream schools: Makaton is regularly used in mainstream schools, support all children to develop communication, language and literacy skills. It also supports integration, as children with and without language difficulties can communicate with each other, learn and play together more easily.



People looking after babies and young children: There is a special Makaton Signing for Babies training, available to parents, family members and professionals who wish to sign with the babies and children in their care. Signing while speaking, has been shown to encourage the development of communication and language skills. It can also give carers a greater understanding of a baby's wants and needs, which can help reduce frustration.



All of us: Makaton symbols are widely used in public buildings such as schools, hospitals, courts and libraries, to help people find their way around. So, you may be using Makaton in daily life without even knowing it.

What does The Makaton Charity do?

The Makaton Charity is responsible for developing and sharing the Makaton Language Programme. We give people the means to express themselves, engage with others, be included in everyday life, take part in education, access information and services and ultimately achieve their full potential.

Helping people communicate

“ From being able to communicate her most basic needs as a toddler, Matilda’s now a schoolgirl who can tell me about her friendships, her happinesses and sadnesses. It’s important stuff. ”

People with learning disabilities or communication difficulties may struggle to make themselves understood - and to understand others.

This can provoke intense frustration, challenging behaviour and isolation and act as a barrier to achievement.

Parents and carers can experience similar feelings of frustration and isolation, wondering how they will ever 'get through'.

Makaton takes away that frustration and enables individuals to connect with other people and the world around them. This opens up all kinds of possibilities.



Have you seen Mr Tumble?

The BBC's award-winning Something Special children's television programme has raised awareness of Makaton among a mainstream audience.

It features a character called Mr Tumble, played by Justin Fletcher, who uses Makaton symbols and signs to support speech throughout each programme.

