School or ASL Unit/Base Consultancy

The CALL team can support your School or Specialist Provision to develop your inclusive digital strategy for learning and communication.

Purpose

- To improve attainment and access to the curriculum of learners with additional support needs through using Assistive and Communication Technology.
- To develop the knowledge and skills of education staff to support the use of Assistive and Communication Technology.

Our input

This can be tailored to the specific requirements of your school or provision, but is likely to include:

- Initial discussions with your local authority Education Officer(s) and school management team around development needs and expected outcomes.
- An audit of the technology available in your school classrooms and /or curricular areas, to be carried out by your school.
- Visit(s) to school usually by a Teacher and Speech and Language Therapist from the CALL team, to advise on using Assistive and Communication Technology with different learners. We will:
    - o Carry out classroom observations and collect information from classroom staff on needs and priorities of the learners, as well as their own professional learning needs.
    - o Meet with key teaching and management staff members, to identify areas for development in technology use and to consider the existing knowledge and skills of the staff.

- o Agree an action plan for school and professional learning to be delivered by the CALL team.
- Loan of assistive technology from the CALL loan bank for school staff to view and trial with learners, and recommendations of new items of technology for school to purchase.
- Delivery of training online or in-person to staff cohorts as identified in initial discussions. For example, in-person hands-on workshops for support staff; synchronous online training for staff teams in classrooms; asynchronous online tutorials. A range of workshops can be delivered depending on staff development needs and time available, such as:
  1. Simple Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Technologies and Strategies for Learners with Communication Support Needs
  2. Accessible Digital Tools for All
  3. Key iPad Apps to Access Communication, Learning and Literacy
  4. Eye Gaze options for Control, Communication and Learning

The total time commitment from the CALL team is typically 5 to 6 days.

Potential Impact

- This model of support enables the CALL team to target the needs of the learners and the school staff, building on the technology and skills already in place.
- Supporting staff in this way means that the CALL team are able to identify useful strategies and resources through classroom observation and discussion, and then provide targeted training workshops based on the existing skills observed and assistive technology available.
- This model of working has proved effective in assisting staff to develop their digital strategy, build sustainable staff skills and capacity and a good working relationship between CALL Scotland and the school.