

Adaptive Teaching Toolkit		
Barrier	Ordinarily Available	Targeted Support
Cognition & Learning		
Attention and Concentration	Chunk instructions, minimal distractions, clear routines and expectations, movement built into lesson – standing where needed to work, fidget toys.	Visual timetable, own workstation, timer, regular check-ins, additional prompts.
Working Memory	One instruction at a time, visuals, extensive retrieval practice, clear models and chunked information.	Prompt cards, written instructions, adult rehearsal, memory aids.
Processing Speed	Additional thinking and processing time, modelled examples and reduced copying of information.	Reduce the quantity of a task, pre-teaching.
Reading Fluency	Echo reading, repeated reading and explicit vocabulary teaching and intervention.	Precision teaching, targeted fluency practice, assistive technology,
Reading Comprehension	Vocabulary instruction, pre-reading, questioning and modelling of inference questions.	Pre-teaching, visual representations.
Writing Transcription	Model writing, scaffolds and word banks. Consider use of WordScape.	Pencil grips, alternative ways to record, scribe, clicker dictation, post-teaching, AFALS assessment.
Spelling	Morphology, phonics revision.	Cued spelling, phonics precision teaching, AFALS assessment.
Mathematical Processing	CPA approach, use of manipulatives, keep to school suggested methods of bar models and key calculation structures once understanding is apparent.	Small-group, pre-teaching, targeted maths interventions, post-teaching.
Organisation	Visual routines, class organisation and stable routines.	Personal checklist, charts, colour codes.
Communication & Interaction		
Understanding Spoken Language	Simple sentences, visuals, repeat instructions.	Chunked language, pre-teaching, SALT referral and advice.
Expressive Language	Think-pair-share, sentence stems.	Adult modelling, vocabulary intervention.
Vocabulary Acquisition and Application	Explicit vocabulary teaching, pre-teaching	Targeted vocabulary groups, post-teaching.
Social Communication	Structured talk, role modelling.	Social stories, comic strips, Lego Therapy.
Conversational Skills	Turn-taking games.	Small-group communication.
Following Routines	Visual timetables, now and next boards.	Individual visual schedule.
Social, Emotional & Mental Health		
Emotional Regulation	Calm, predictable routines and classroom environment, fidget toys.	Regulation plan, check in/check out, ELSA, sensory breaks, Six Core Strengths.
Anxiety	Prepare for changes, reassurance check ins, safe relationships.	Individual transitions, anxiety toolkit.
Low Self-esteem	Praise efforts, achievable success.	Mentoring, confidence-building target sheet, Six Core Strengths.
Motivation	Choices, meaningful learning – purpose.	Individual rewards systems linked to intrinsic goals.
Managing Frustrations	Model coping strategies.	Co-regulation plan, break card, safe space, Six Core Strengths.
Peer Relationships	Co-operative learning.	Social skills group.
Unmet Need Behaviours	Curious conversations, restorative language, choices.	Behaviour support plan, pastoral support offered.
Sensory & Physical		
Fine Motor	Pencil choices, grips, writing slopes.	OT Programme, adaptive equipment.
Gross Motor	Movement opportunities.	Physiotherapy programme.

Sensory Processing	Sensory awareness, fidget toys, calm classroom space.	Ear defenders, additional fidget choices, Sensory Circuits.
Hearing	Reduce background noise, face the child and speak clearly with mouthing structures.	Radio aid, hearing support.
Vision	Enlarged print, high contrast.	Specialist resources.
Fatigue	Flexible timetables, short chunks of learning, hydration reminders.	Healthcare plan, medical liaison, rest breaks.
Medical Needs	Dependent on need.	Dependent on need – seek additional advice.
Cross-Category Barriers		
Attendance	Warm welcome, additional adaptations – coming through the office etc, catch-up with teacher, visual timetable, pre-warning of the day ahead, share learning expectations, home-school communication, class buddy.	Attendance plan, flexible timetable, pastoral mentor, family support referral, multi-agency involvement.
EBSA	Consistent routines, trusted adult, calm arrival, home-school communication.	Reintegration plan, reduced transitions, safe space, emotional regulation programme, multi-agency support.
EAL	Clear and concise models, gestures and visual aids, partner talk, teach key vocabulary, check understanding.	Vocabulary intervention, small-group language development, dual-language resources, adaptations to tasks, structured speaking and listening, home-school language support.
Learning Gaps	Retrieval practice, explicit teaching, scaffolded tasks, flexible groupings, modelled examples,	Same-day interventions, small-group catch-up sessions, precision teaching, pre-teach, post-teach, guided practice.
Speech and Language	Pre-teaching, explicit vocabulary instruction, stem sentences, repeat and recap, model responses.	SALT referral, colourful semantics, visual supports, small-group language instruction, language rehearsal.
Executive Function	Visual timetable, checklists, routines, model organisation, clear success criteria, timers.	Workstation checklist, adult planning support, visual sequencing cards, daily checklist.
Independence	Three before me, success ladders, visual prompts, thinking time.	Independence targets, prompt cards, self-monitoring checklists.
Resilience	Praise effort, growth mindset, model mistakes, scaffold challenges, celebrate elements of perseverance.	Resilience goals, adult coaching, reflection journals, small targets.
Trauma	Predictable, positive relationships, clear routines, visuals, reduce uncertainty, warm greeting, emotional availability, neutral corrections, appropriate choices, celebrate efforts, co-regulation.	Seek outside agency support, therapy, co-regulation strategies, trusted adult, personalised transition support, sensory regulation toolkit, check ins, safe space, family partnership meetings.
Bereavement	Compassionate approach, predictable routines, trusted adult, flexibility.	Bereavement support, regular check-ins, emotional wellbeing intervention, external agency approach.
Attachment	Compassionate approach, predictable routines, trusted adult, flexibility, clear boundaries, emotional coaching.	Six-core strengths, key adult, individual regulation plan.
Selective Mutism	Accept alternative communication, built trust and connection, Give thinking time.	Individual communication plan, seek SALT support, graduated speaking opportunities.