Utilisation of Learning Support Assistants

At Princetown Primary School, we believe that maximising the impact of Learning Support Assistants (LSA's) is of incredible importance. Our LSA's provide excellent support for pupils at our school, in a number of ways, including:

- In class support – Supporting pupils by offering support during tasks, asking questions, scaffolding learning, and assisting the class teacher.
- Interventions – Supporting groups of children to develop one key area of their learning.
- Booster Groups – Providing similar input to the class teachers but in a quieter small group environment. This may also take the form of 'revision' sessions where children are provided with additional time to work on a particular learning objective.
- One-to-one interventional support – Providing tailored support to particular pupils in order for them to make progress with a certain area.
- Administrative Support – Providing administrative support to class teachers in order to allow them to focus on other key aspects of preparation, planning, teaching and learning.

At Princetown Primary School, we recognise that the types of support above, whilst invaluable in supporting progress, can provoke dependence on adults if overused or used ineffectively. With this in mind, our LSA's always follow the scaffolding guidelines provided by Bosanquet, Rashford and Webster (2016) in their book: *'The Teaching Assistant's Guide to Effective Interaction'.*

The idea of this model is for all children to achieve 'Self scaffolding' where they can problem-solve and approach challenges with no additional support. The ultimate goal is to make children independent learners. This is demonstrated by a pupil making choices about strategies, methods, vocabulary and other tools that are going to help them and equip them for their future.

LSA's will also use other methods, such as prompting and cueing to support them and at times, will even model or correct pupils. This model promotes the development of independence at all times when children are learning but is also able to provide the support required as needed.