

Sara Cohen School is dedicated in providing specialist services to our students and family/whanau to support successful educational outcomes.

Our SSAST team consists of:

- Speech Language Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Music Therapist
- Educational Psychologist
- Access to other agencies as required eg: BLENNZ, Physiotherapy services, Advisor to Deaf.

Sara Cohen Staff and SSAST work together to provide a seamless service for our students and family/whanau. Teaching staff embed specialist programmes into the student's school day. Specialist goals align with the NZ Curriculum and the Key Competencies.

Specialist Services Pathway

Referral consent form signed by family/whanau to access Specialist Services

Specialist Services Coordinator liaises with the Specialist Team to discuss and allocate the referral appropriately. Family/whanau engagement is encouraged throughout the referral process.

The assessment process is carried out collaboratively with input from the student, family/whanau, teaching staff and relevant outside agencies. Family/whanau will be involved in the assessment process.

Following the Assessment process goals and programmes are planned collaboratively with family/whanau and teaching staff to align with the NZ Curriculum including the Key Competencies.

Specialists ensure education is provided when necessary to teaching and support staff, and family/whanau so that programmes are effectively implemented throughout the student's day.

Programmes and goals are reviewed on a regular basis. Family/whanau and teaching staff play a key role in the closure process once therapy is completed. Family/whanau are well informed of on-going support available to them.

Sara Cohen Specialists work with the focus of the school's Total Communication Philosophy that underpins all practices by:

- Demonstrating a commitment to the promotion of independence and inclusion.
- Respecting the right of our students to have a choice.
- Valuing, respecting and promoting all forms of communication.
- Maximising the involvement of students at all levels both at school and in the wider community.
- Collaboratively addressing the needs and priorities of our family whanau.
- Developing partnerships between everyone who is part of our school-wide community.
- Promoting engagement and embracing the concept of Ako – where the teaching and learning relationship is one of reciprocity. We recognise that to enable success the learner and whanau cannot be separated.

Occupational Therapy

The Occupational Therapist works alongside the students, school staff, and family whānau to identify any occupational performance difficulties and aims to address these. The Occupational Therapist carries out appropriate assessments and develops individualised programmes to support the student. Assessment and programmes support students in activities of daily living, hand function and fine motor skills, sensory processing, vocational skills, and play/leisure. The Occupational Therapist also provides specialist equipment to help students access the curriculum e.g. specialist seating and assistive technology.

Speech and Language Therapy

The Speech and Language Therapists work to support students who have communication difficulties either expressive or receptive. They work collaboratively with classroom staff and family whānau to support the students' functional language and integrates individualised programmes into the student's day to support the student in participation of classroom activities and accessing the curriculum. The Speech and Language Therapists will support students in a range of domains including; attention and listening, social skills, understanding of language, expressive language, speech sounds, and oral motor development. The Speech and Language Therapists integrate augmentative and assistive communication strategies such as the use of pictures/symbols, electronic devices and signing as additional support to students. They also work with students who present with eating and drinking difficulties. The Speech and Language Therapists promote positive interaction and support classroom staff in ensuring safe eating and drinking practices are carried out.

Music Therapy

Music Therapists use music creatively to help students address social, emotional or physical difficulties.

Music therapists seek to establish an interaction – a shared musical experience – in the pursuit of therapeutic goals.

Sensory processing, turn taking, self-expression and developing increased self-awareness form part of the therapy session.

Psychologist

Our Educational Psychologist works with students, alongside classroom staff, specialists, and family whānau to provide support and advice to team members and to develop individualised programmes and resources to support the student in the student in participation in class and academic achievement. The Educational Psychologist's assessment and intervention is relevant to the individual student and includes strategies to understand and manage student behaviour and specific learning styles. Programmes and strategies are discussed with classroom staff, specialists, and family whānau and implemented within the school and home contexts.

Mission Statement

“To enable our students to be successful lifetime learners actively involved in their community”

Sara Cohen School Specialist Services Provision



Sara Cohen School
Specialising in teaching students with diverse needs

Sara Cohen School

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Excellence in education for students with diverse learning needs.