

What do we appreciate about Sion

He has a cheeky smile and twinkle in his eye.

He is sensitive towards his friends.

The way he uses his eyes and expressions to communicate.

That he knows what he wants, he is very determined.

The way he builds relationships and interacts positively with people he knows and likes.



What's important to Sion

His mum, Debbie, dad, Rich, and brother Dafydd.

To have 1:1 support from staff he knows and likes in the class. Sion is in year 9 and particularly likes Shelby to support him.

To be in a small classroom with only a few other people, ideally, no more than six other pupils.

To be able to go to Allt Wen to the sensory room every Thursday afternoon with Shelby.

To go to AnturWaunfawr every Tuesday morning to use/access the sensory equipment and to walk around the gardens there.

To go swimming in Pwllheli twice a week with Shelby, this is always on a Monday morning and Wednesday morning.

To be able to go outside when he wants to so that he has more space around him.

That people do not crowd Sion, for example, he has lunch in a small group in the classroom and he likes to sit at the very back of the 7 seater people carrier and the back of the minibus.

To be part of the class and to be with his friends in the class. He has recently brought himself to sit alongside his peers in the class during morning diary sessions and will willingly sit alongside in a group session

To go out with his support workers Shelby and Gwern twice a week to walk on the beach, to rebound therapy, or the sensory room. This is usually on a Tuesday evening and Saturday morning.

To have a structure to his day and to know what will be happening each day. To Sion this means having a visual timetable and leadership from staff in the classroom and in particular Shelby.

To be able to use an iPad. Sion likes to switch the camera on and look at himself on it.

To be able to use the interactive whiteboard.

To be able to listen to music and play the drums. He likes most popular music and Mr Tumble songs.

This normally takes place when Sion is in the classroom without other pupils.

To have his head covered either with his helmet or a hat.

How best to support Sion

Know that if you ask Sion to do something, he will take time to process what you have asked him to do and to complete the task, so please be patient and always make sure that you phrase it in an encouraging and positive way.

Know that Sion must wear his helmet, particularly when he is not happy, as he is liable to hurt himself. Sion never refuses to have his helmet put on, he does in fact place it on his own head and is quite happy for someone to straighten or put on properly.

Support Sion by giving him clear and simple instructions if he becomes distressed Sion will normally calm down if given a koshi or similar tactile toy to squeeze. If this does not work Sion can be redirected to another activity preferably outside in the park or garden, as this is what he enjoys most. Take a ball outside and encourage him to play catch to distract him.

Let Sion know what is happening now and next and support him by using symbols and pictures that he recognises and are in his communication passport.

Know that Sion finds crowded places difficult. If you are planning a trip with Sion, always check out how crowded it is likely to be when making the arrangements. If you arrive somewhere together and it is unexpectedly busy, support him by giving him his koshi or soft toy and if necessary guide him out of the situation by offering a crisp or piece of chocolate.

Sion enjoys tactile experiences, so when working with him at school, make sure that you incorporate them into his day.

Sion responds to basic letter sounds to develop his interaction with others. It is best if this is done with people that Sion is familiar with.

Sion wears pads, which need changing regularly throughout the day. He needs complete support with all aspects of his personal care information, see Sion's personal care folder in the classroom.

Know that Sion finds it difficult if the car he is traveling in has to stop at lights or for road works, he will become anxious and agitated. Support him by avoiding routes where you know there are likely to be delays and always making sure that you have a stress ball with you.

Understand that Sion needs to have 2:1 support in the community, one person each side of him with arms linked when possible. If you need to use a pedestrian crossing, support him by sending someone ahead to press the button before Sion reaches it.

Know that Sion will knock cups off the table if they are left in front of him. Support him by remembering this and always moving them when he is there. Sion uses an insulated cup with a lid on.

Make sure that Sion has plenty of drinks throughout the day. Sion will get his cup if he wants a drink.

He has an Active Support Program that he is working on with Shelby to make his own drink.

Remember that Sion doesn't usually initiate requests so it's important to give him choices throughout the day. Do this by asking Sion what he wants, for example, 'Sion want lpad? Sion will respond by going to what it is he wants.