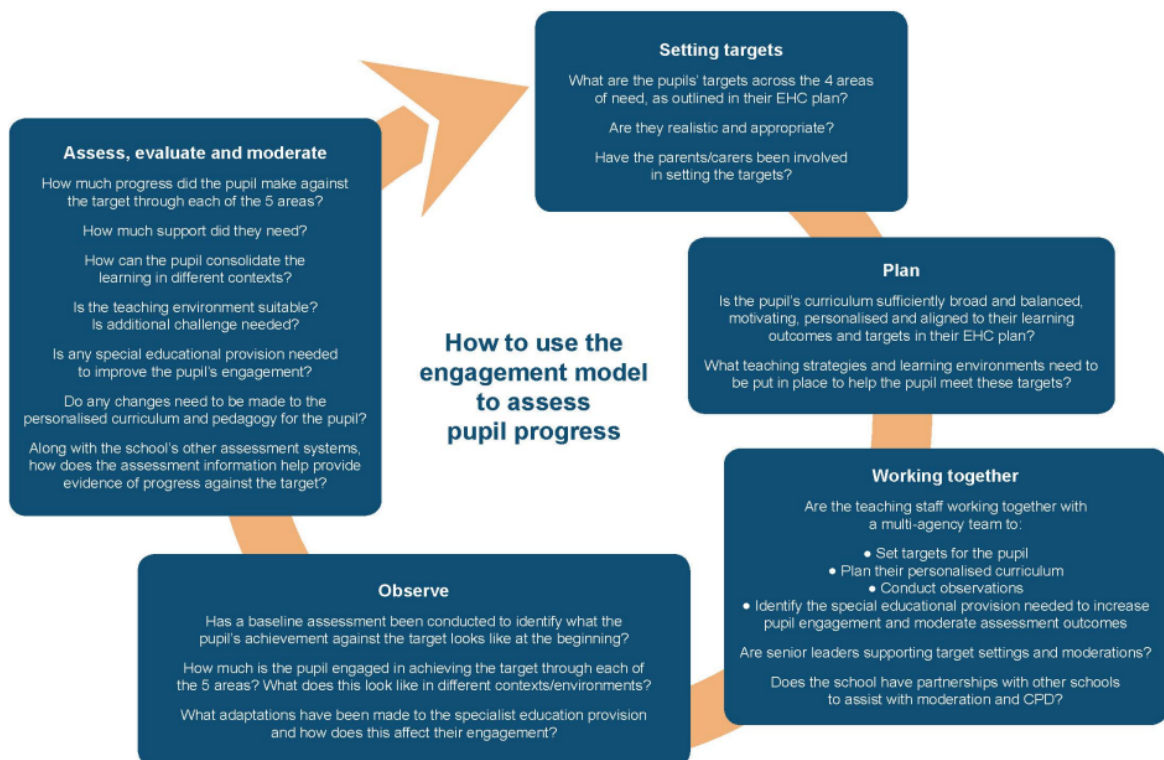


The Engagement Model is an assessment framework used in special educational needs (SEN) schools in England to support the assessment of pupils with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD). It was introduced as a pilot in 2020 and is designed to provide a more holistic and flexible approach to assessing and tracking the progress of learners with complex needs.



Pupils:

The Engagement Model is primarily designed for pupils with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties who may not engage with the traditional curriculum or assessment methods. These learners often have highly individualised needs and abilities.

Assessment Focus:

Instead of focusing on traditional subject-based learning outcomes, the Engagement Model assesses pupils' engagement with the world around them and their ability to interact and make connections with their environment.

Areas of Engagement:

The model identifies five areas of engagement, which are used to assess and track a pupil's progress:

Exploration: The extent to which a pupil explores and interacts with their environment.

Realisation: How a pupil realises their needs and preferences and communicates them to others.

Anticipation: A pupil's ability to anticipate and respond to events, objects, or people in their environment.

Persistence: How a pupil persists with and sustains their engagement over time.

Initiation: A pupil's ability to initiate interactions and communication.

Assessment Tools:

The Engagement Model uses a range of observational and assessment tools to gather evidence of a pupil's engagement in these five areas. This evidence can include photographs, videos, written records, and other forms of documentation.

Holistic Approach:

The assessment process is holistic and focuses on capturing a pupil's engagement across various settings and activities, including classroom, home, and community environments.

Collaboration:

Teachers, teaching assistants, parents, and other professionals work collaboratively to assess and record a pupil's engagement. This collaborative approach helps gather a comprehensive picture of the pupil's abilities and progress.

Individualised Assessment:

The Engagement Model recognises that each pupil is unique and may have highly individualised patterns of engagement. Assessments are tailored to the specific needs and abilities of the learner.

Progress Tracking:

Progress is tracked over time, and the focus is on recognising small steps of progress and celebrating achievements, no matter how incremental they may be.

Communication:

The model places a strong emphasis on communication, including non-verbal forms of communication such as body language, gestures, and facial expressions.

Personalised Learning Goals:

Based on the assessment of a pupil's engagement, personalised learning goals and strategies are developed to support their development and well-being.

Transition Planning:

The Engagement Model also supports transition planning, ensuring a smooth transition for pupils as they move between educational settings or stages of education.

Flexibility:

The model is designed to be flexible and adaptable to the changing needs of each pupil. It recognises that progress may occur at different rates and in different ways for each learner.

The Engagement Model is intended to provide a more meaningful and individualized way of assessing and supporting pupils with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties. It emphasises the importance of recognising and celebrating the progress and achievements of these learners, no matter how small, as they engage with their world and develop their abilities.