

## We See Jesus In Everything We Do



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Dear Parents,

As I'm sure you are already aware, at St Edward's First we use a 'key word' signing system called Makaton. This means that when we are talking, we try to use signs to 'highlight' the most important words in a sentence. Signs are used alongside talking and encourage the children's attention and listening, understanding, speech production and confidence.

**Makaton signs** (these are actions) are used by staff throughout the school as signing at the same time as talking helps all children to remember and understand what has been said. Children find it easier to learn, remember and use new words if they learn the sign at the same time. Some children will also use the sign themselves alongside their talking to help develop their confidence and communication skills.

You might also see **Makaton symbols** (these are pictures) displayed around school. We use them to help children and visitors find their way around school, but they also have lots of uses in the classroom e.g., for visual timetables and to help children learn and write stories. Teachers are also using Makaton symbols to help children understand new words and concepts.



We are really excited, this year, to be working towards becoming accredited as a "**Makaton Friendly**" school by The Makaton Charity. However, we would appreciate your support to achieve this. In classes, the children will be introduced by a "Makaton Sign/Symbol of the Week". This will be shared on our school website ([www.stedwardscatholicfirstschool.co.uk/SEND/makaton](http://www.stedwardscatholicfirstschool.co.uk/SEND/makaton)) and on our school Twitter page (<https://twitter.com/stedwardsfirst>). If possible, please encourage your child by practising this at home. We will be awarding a Makaton 'Star of the Week' in each class to motivate the children too!

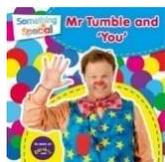
Luckily, there are a variety of resources including Mr Tumble and Signing Hands to support the children's learning. These are also available for you to use at home by following the links below:



<https://singinghands.co.uk/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSgfgkristwvJft3BNN-NYQ>



<https://makaton.org/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKVXkfPQceP9thH1k8FRZsg>



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/something-special>  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCynLtJ9E2c34bui4ON0ovGw>

Many thanks for your support,

Mr Keohane  
SENDCo