

Resource 33: The extended silent period

an extended silent period

pupil at last begins to speak

- pupil doesn't speak in class for many months
- pupil may speak home language in the playground
- pupil may even speak some words of English in the playground
- pupil may speak some words of English at home
- pupil probably shows signs of stress from being determined not to speak English
- pupil probably shows signs of understanding English
- parents need reassurance and support
- pupil will probably start to speak of their own accord when some trigger makes them feel at home
- pupil who refuses to speak for more than six months and who is clearly stressed needs careful monitoring by a Special Educational Needs teacher or a psychologist