

Hearing Impairments

The following information is used by a local school for assisting children and young people with hearing impairments:

If you have a hearing impaired pupil in your class here are some top tips.

Remember that hearing aids or cochlear implant processors magnify all sound in the classroom so a noisy classroom can be a very difficult environment for a hearing impaired child.

Consider seating arrangement

- Think about the distance the deaf child is away from you when you are delivering the lesson. Many children need to see your face to lip read when they are on the carpet or sitting at their table.
- Avoid moving around the classroom when talking.

Reduce noise from outside the classroom:

- Close windows
- Make sure doors to other classrooms or noisy corridors are closed.

Reduce noise inside the classroom:

- Think about noise control during lessons
- Seat the pupil away from noise sources eg. not next to heating or ventilation systems, computers, overhead projector etc.
- Turn off equipment when it is not being used
- Stick soft pads on the bottom of chair and table legs and use fabric on displays and display tables to improve acoustics.
- Use a Sound field system if available.
- Provide quiet areas – deaf children get very tired if they have been listening hard all day and need somewhere where they can “switch off” for a while.

When teaching remember:

- Deaf children need time to process language, so give them extra thinking and responding time.
- If they do not understand you, try and rephrase what you are saying in a simpler way.
- Always use the child's name first before giving instructions or asking a direct question. Make sure they understand the task.
- Talk at a normal level and pace: shouting or speaking slowly affects your lip pattern and makes it very difficult to lip read.
- Whenever possible pre teach any new vocabulary.
- Make your lessons as visual as possible.
- Make sure the child is able to tell you if their equipment is not working and ensure you know how to replace batteries by asking your teacher of the deaf or the child's parent to show you what to do.