

Supporting the achievement of deaf children in secondary schools

For school staff working with pupils with hearing impairment



ndcs
every deaf child

NatSIP
National Special Educational Needs Institute

Department for Education

Supporting the achievement of deaf children in secondary schools: a summary

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Pupils who are deaf (including those who have been identified as having a hearing impairment) have a wide range of abilities. With the right support they have the same potential to attain and achieve as other pupils.

Simple steps to support the achievement of deaf pupils

Many of these steps will benefit **all** the pupils in your class.

- Make sure staff understand the different levels and types of deafness and the implications that deafness has for learning.
- Adapt your teaching and learning strategies to meet the needs of deaf pupils through, for example, greater use of visual aids and pre- and post-tutoring sessions.
- Work closely with the local specialist special educational needs (SEN) support services and Teachers of the Deaf for further advice and support.

- Work in partnership with parents to help them support their child's learning.
- Use hearing technology, such as radio aids, effectively. Hearing aids, cochlear implants and radio aids considerably improve access to sound and make a crucial contribution to a deaf pupil's development of language, communication and learning. However, hearing technologies do not replace normal hearing. Deaf pupils will still experience difficulties in hearing what teachers, other staff and other pupils are saying.
- Take steps to improve the listening environment by, for example, reducing background noise. This might also include:
 - fitting curtains or blinds
 - using display drapes on walls
 - covering hard surfaces with fabric
 - padding the bottoms of trays/pots with felt or foam
 - putting tips or 'hush-ups' on chairs.



- Ensure good communication within the classroom. For communication to be clear and effective:
 - make sure that you have the deaf pupil's attention before you start talking
 - speak clearly and at your normal level and pace – speaking too slowly or exaggerating mouth patterns will make you harder to understand as it distorts speech
 - ensure that the pupil is sitting at an appropriate distance from you, usually about one metre away
 - allow the deaf pupil to see your face and lips when speaking – putting something in front of your face or turning to write on the whiteboard will make it difficult to lipread
 - ensure you are not standing with your back to a light source as a shadow cast across the face can impede the deaf pupil's view
 - check that the pupil understood what was said – repeat or rephrase what you have said if they have not understood
 - promote deaf awareness among your other pupils. Our *Look, Smile, Chat Deaf Awareness Pack* has resources to increase deaf awareness at school, including communication tips for deaf and hearing young people and lesson plans: youngpeople.ndcsbuzz.org.uk/looksmilechat.
- Work effectively with teaching assistants and communication support workers.
- Use specialist assessments to assess and monitor the progress of the deaf pupil.
- Consider the social and emotional development needs of the deaf pupil.

Find out more

The full *Supporting the Achievement of Deaf Children in Secondary Schools* resource provides more comprehensive information and advice on strategies to support deaf pupils in your classroom. This is available to download, along with a number of supporting resources, templates and checklists, from our website at www.ndcs.org.uk/supportingachievement.

A series of short films which provide simple and easy-to-follow guidance to ensure that deaf pupils can fully participate in the class, access the curriculum and achieve their full potential have also been produced. The films include a general introduction and overview of strategies to support deaf pupils and subject-specific films in English, maths, science and modern foreign languages. These can be viewed on our website: www.ndcs.org.uk/professional_support/our_resources/secondary_education_clips/education_video.rma.

Got a question?

Our Freephone Helpline can answer your questions about any issues relating to deaf children and young people. Give us a call on **0808 800 8880**, email us at helpline@ndcs.org.uk or take part in a live chat at www.ndcs.org.uk/livechat. You can also order our publications through the Helpline.

The National Deaf Children's Society is the leading charity dedicated to creating a world without barriers for deaf children and young people across the UK. We support deaf children, their families and the professionals who work with them.

Our resources support professionals to promote best practice and raise expectations. To order any of our free resources, visit www.ndcs.org.uk/publications or contact our Helpline.

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