



Information Sheet: Hearing impairment

What is a hearing impairment?

Hearing impairment, deafness, or hearing loss refers to **the total or partial inability to hear sounds**. Symptoms may be mild, moderate, severe, or profound which effects the severity of the impact on the lives of those with hearing impairments.

Some hearing impairments can be helped with hearing aids and other assistive devices which improve a child's hearing function. In these cases, the child is not likely to need much additional support. They may need to be seated away from noisy areas as all sounds will be magnified and staff may need to wear radio mics.

Children with profound hearing loss are likely to use sign language to communicate effectively and will be mastering it in their mother tongue as well as possibly also learning British Sign Language.

Support strategies for learners with hearing impairments

- Sit the child near to the front of the class away from noisy distractions.
- Ensure there is a clear line of sight.
- Minimise background noise where possible.
- Teach sign language for key objects in the class.
- Teach the whole class key sign language vocabulary.
- Provide visual aids where possible.
- Repeat questions and responses.
- Ensure spare batteries for hearing aids are provided.
- Pre-teach new key vocabulary using visual aids where possible.
- Work closely with a professional for the hearing impaired and follow any guidelines or recommended resources.

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