

## Resourced Schools for Hearing Impaired pupils

### Communication Policy

#### Objectives

- To identify and monitor the developing communication needs of the individual pupil using a range of appropriate assessments.
- To involve parents and pupils in decisions about communication modes appropriate for the child.
- To support each child in developing the communication skills necessary for: engaging in meaningful two-way interactions with a range of people in school; developing independent access to the curriculum.
- Staff and pupils in the school understand the communication needs of each hearing impaired pupil.
- To provide specialist support from a Teacher of the Deaf and Speech and Language Therapist.
- Every hearing impaired pupil will be encouraged to develop maximum use of their residual hearing by the continuous use and maintenance of hearing aids.
- To offer a range of communication modes based on the needs of the individual pupil.
- To provide a stimulating environment offering the hearing-impaired child a full range of sounds, language and learning experiences which are available to the hearing child.
- To monitor and assess the child's listening, language and learning progress to inform future programmes.

#### Auditory Oral Communication

Auditory/aural communication. Hearing aids\* are worn at all times. Communication is developed through speaking and listening delivered in a natural way. Visual materials are used to support the development of language but signing is not used.

#### Total Communication

**Sign Supported English (SSE)**

Hearing aids are worn at all times. Communication is developed through speaking, listening and signing. Speech is delivered in English format in conjunction with BSL (British Sign Language) key signs. For a child needing signing to support their development of language, it is the most commonly used mode when communicating with that child. When interpreting spoken language, the Teacher of the Deaf or Sign Communicator will use SSE without voice as the child will be listening to the voice of the speaker.

### **Signed English (SE)**

Hearing aids are worn at all times. Communication is developed through speaking, listening and signing. Speech is delivered in conjunction with Signed English signs derived from BSL (British Sign Language) but incorporate additional 'markers' i.e. signs for: word endings; conjunctions; tenses etc. This mode is used for developing English literacy skills and is not used for general spoken communication because of the difficulty in developing fluency.

### **British Sign Language (BSL)**

Signing is used without speech. British Sign Language format is used instead of English format. BSL would usually be used for story telling or when BSL would be more appropriate for communication.

**\*Hearing aids include: post aural aids; bone conduction aids; cochlear implants; radio aids; and any combination of these.**