**Information for parents/carers and schools**

**Hearing Impairment Support**

Guidance relating to assessment of functional hearing

This information explains to schools, parents and carers what a child’s hearing assessment consists of.

**What is a functional hearing assessment?**

The aim of a functional hearing assessment is to establish how well a child can hear words and sentences outside of a clinic situation.

To assess your child’s hearing, we use speech tests of hearing. This involves listening to scientifically balanced lists of words and sentences. The tests provide us with information on how well your child can hear different speech sounds.

We perform the tests at three different voice levels:

* Conversational level 60-65 decibels
* Quiet conversational level 50 decibels
* Very quiet conversational level 40 decibels

We assess the children with and without them being able to see our face so that we can find out how reliant they are upon lip reading and using visual cues. We may also assess their ability to hear in the presence of background noise and also with or without an FM system.

Depending upon the age of your child, we may also complete a questionnaire such as the Listening Inventory for Education (LIFE). This questionnaire has pictures of different listening situations pupils find themselves in at school. Your child will be encouraged to indicate how well they can hear in each situation.

**What happens after the assessment?**

After the assessment is completed a formal report will be written. Copies of this report will be sent to parents and /or carers, your child’s school and whoever you have agreed that we may share it with.