**Information for schools**

**Hearing Impairment Support**

Guidance relating to the management of glue ear in the classroom.

This information provides guidance to schools on supporting children in school, who have glue ear.

**What is glue ear?**

Research indicates that 1 in 4 pupils are affected by a mild hearing loss at any one time during their early school years due to glue ear.

Typically, hearing thresholds fluctuate with this type of hearing loss with sufferers having good day and bad days.

Pupils with glue ear will often:

* Have problems responding to a quiet voice
* Have problems locating the source of sound
* Have problems hearing in background noise
* Have a deterioration in hearing levels when they suffer from a cold
* Have problems hearing in poor acoustic conditions e.g. assembly hall, dining room
* Have difficulty with phonic work
* Have problems maintaining concentration when hearing deteriora

**How you can help**

**School staff**

* Face pupils when addressing them - giving instructions when writing on the board may mean that hearing impaired pupils will miss what you have said
* Ensure that you are within 3 metres of the pupil when addressing them. This allows pupils to make best use of their hearing and to gain maximum benefit of lip-reading cues
* Try to stay in one place when teaching especially if pupil is having to take notes. It is difficult to lip-read a moving target!
* Avoid standing in front of a window or bright light as this creates problems for pupils trying to lip read
* Keep background noise to a minimum as this will improve speech perception for the hearing impaired pupil.
* Say their name - get them looking and concentrating on you before you speak.
* Ask your Teacher of the Deaf for advice on developing listening skills
* Check understanding
* Provide visual cues to aid understanding particularly when introducing new topics.

**Pupils**

* The hearing impaired pupil should be seated:
* Within 3 metres of the speaker
* To see the remainder of his/her group
* Where it is easy to see the speaker
* With his/her back to the light

**Background noise and poor acoustics**

All hearing aid wearers will have difficulty with speech perception in background noise in the following environments

* Rooms with high ceilings
* Rooms / areas without carpets or soft furnishings
* Tiled, sparsely furnished rooms
* Halls, gymnasiums, dining rooms
* Rooms with a high proportion of glass
* Open plan areas
* Seats near doors, printers, ‘busy areas’

The hearing impairment service delivers training sessions ‘Managing Mild Hearing Loss’ for Teachers and Teaching Assistants. Please contact us for further details.