**Information for parents/carers and schools**

**Hearing Impairment Support**

Guidance relating to hearing loss – some warning signs

This information sheet outlines a range of warning signs which may indicate that a child has a hearing problem

**Warning signs of a hearing impairment**

A hearing loss is very common in young children. This can be a temporary condition as in ‘glue ear’ or it may be permanent.

Research indicates that one in four children are affected by hearing loss at any time during their early years. Listed below are some signs that may indicate that a child has a hearing problem:

* Child does not respond when called
* Speech is delayed
* Speech is unclear or slushy. Some sounds are mispronounced or omitted
* Unstressed words in speech eg in, on are omitted
* Watches face of speaker intently
* Reluctant to speak - may nod or gesture
* May display temper tantrums, frustration through inappropriate behaviour
* Inaccurate use of tenses
* Difficulty focusing during circle and story time
* Frequently asks for repetition - says ‘What?’ ‘Pardon?’
* Does not follow instructions straight away
* Misunderstands or ignores instructions
* Requires repetition
* Watches others and copies their actions
* Continues activity when asked to stop ‘daydreams’
* Dominates conversations - talks but does not listen• Withdrawn, quiet
* Shouts, talks loudly
* Talks very quietly
* Asks you to speak louder
* Asks friends what was said
* Fails to participate in group discussions
* Frequent colds
* Mouth breather
* Has weak phonic skills