**Information for parents/carers and schools**

**Hearing Impairment Support**

Auditory Processing Disorder - recommendations for support

This information explains what Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) is and the strategies that can be employed children who have been diagnosed with the condition.

**What is Auditory Processing Disorder?**

APD is a diagnosed condition whereby sufferers have difficulty processing the auditory information or sounds that their brain receives. Their hearing mechanism delivers the sounds appropriately, but the brain has difficulty interpreting or decoding them. There is no cure for APD but strategies can be employed to help alleviate some of the difficulties.

**Implications of APD for pupils**

The pupil or student may experience the following difficulties:

* Understanding spoken information.
* Expressing themself clearly.
* Reading and comprehending language in written text.
* Remembering instructions particularly complex instructions with a number of parts.
* Understanding spoken messages.
* Staying focused.
* Hearing and listening in background noise or poor acoustic conditions.
* Tiring easily

**Recommended support strategies**

* The pupil or student needs to sit near the front of the class or the source of sound. They need to be positioned so that they can make good use of lip reading and visual cues and have an easy view of their classmates.
* All staff should alert the pupil/student to the fact that they are about to impart information and check that they have understood.
* Written prompts and keywords prepared for each lesson would be useful to consolidate and reinforce verbal instructions and information. Pre-tutoring sessions would be beneficial.
* Background noise should be kept to a minimum as the pupil/student may find it difficult to pick out auditory signals from background noise.
* The pupil may benefit from pre-tutoring and post tutoring to ensure that she has grasped the concepts of lessons.
* The pupil/student will need time to process auditory information.
* Complex language in instructions and in written information will need to be modified and broken down into manageable chunks to enable the pupil/student to access the curriculum.
* Staff should be aware that pupils/students need to focus and concentrate intensely in lessons is liable to cause them to tire easily and become fatigued particularly towards the end of the day.

**More information**

As APD is not a result of hearing loss, the hearing impairment service is unable to provide individual support for pupils/students. We can however provide general support, and advice. Useful information can also be found at <https://apdsupportuk.yolasite.com/>