

Virtual School Sensory Support

Improving Listening Conditions for Learning

Advice for Settings

Communication

- Child/young person needs to wear their hearing aids as advised by the Audiology Department at their Hospital.
- All additional advice from the Hospital continues to apply and should be followed.
- Hearing aids should be checked first thing each morning and then again after lunch to ensure they are working at their optimum.
- Alert the child/young person by name before engaging in conversation/giving further information.
- Allow time for child/young person to process the information before expecting them to respond to questions.

In the classroom

- Keep background noise to a minimum including closing all doors and windows where possible.
- Use class displays to support learning and to make the classroom as accessible as possible.
- Carpeting, soft furnishing, rubber feet on the table and chair legs etc will reduce noise in the classroom.

Positioning in the classroom

- Child/young person needs to always sit face on to the teacher and near to the front of the room.
- Staff should be aware that child/young person may require lip-reading and visual clues to support her/his hearing and keep the light on their (teacher's) face.
- Staff should ensure that they are facing child/young person when giving instructions and not move around the room whilst talking nor turn away to write on the board.

Teaching strategies

- Instructions need to be delivered clearly and at an appropriate volume.
- All staff working with child/young person should check discreetly that she/he has heard the content, particularly when delivering new information, vocabulary, instructions or homework.
- Child/young person may find it difficult to follow class discussions so it would be useful for staff to repeat comments from other pupils to ensure she/he has heard them.
- Teachers should be aware that during P.E. or Games lessons she/he may find it more difficult to follow instructions; stand near to the child/young person and demonstrate/model activities.
- Child/young person may find it difficult to follow words spoken on an audio recording and may need a person with her/him to repeat what is being said.
- Staff should make use of subtitles for films/visual recordings.
- Visual reinforcement such as pictures and handouts will additionally support learning.