

South Tyneside Hearing Impaired Service

Hearing Impaired Resource Bases at Simonside Primary School

Provision

There are two bases, KS1 and KS2, both run by qualified specialist Teachers of the Deaf. The bases provide support for children with varied hearing losses; from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds and with a range of learning needs.

Having this specialist provision located within a mainstream school, provides the children with opportunities for inclusion in mainstream classes as well as lessons within the bases.

“Provision for pupils with a hearing impairment in the school facilitates the inclusion of these pupils very effectively. As a result, they grow in confidence and are happy to take on responsibilities such as buddying younger children.” OFSTED 2012

Teaching and Learning

The Teachers of the Deaf collaborate with mainstream class teachers to provide the children with a modified curriculum suitable for individual learning needs. Lessons are heavily based around learning and extending vocabulary; with teaching delivered to children working in small groups or on a 1:1 basis. We use a range of teaching techniques incorporating audio, visual and kinaesthetic activities. Real life experiences are used where possible to facilitate and consolidate learning. All HI staff have high expectations of every child and will go above and beyond to provide the children with engaging learning experiences.

“Pupils who attend the Hearing Impaired Unit make outstanding progress as their complex learning needs are well understood by staff. They are fully involved in lessons and school life.” OFSTED 2014

Communication

We have adopted a total communication approach; we have specialist-teaching assistants who are qualified in BSL who support the children in every aspect of school life.

“Pupils in the hearing impaired units make outstanding progress because of the expertise and good quality support from highly skilled adults.” OFSTED 2012

The school is fitted with a Soundfield system, which is used in assemblies, and the children use a Fm system in class. The children are taught to take ownership of their own hearing aids and implants and they learn how to check and clean their own equipment.

The bases are stimulating learning environments which have been modified for optimum acoustic conditions.