



## **Our vision for Deaf Support at Lister**

Our vision for Deaf Support at Lister is that our students achieve to the best of their ability; developing their independence and self identity to allow them to leave the school as confident and self assured young adults, moving forwards to the next phase of their education. The Deaf Support Department (DSD) is the Resourced Provision (RP) for Deaf or Hard of Hearing students within Lister Community School. Students that are part of the provision access the specialist staff and services we can offer.

Our students play an active role in the life of the school. They attend, as far as possible, a full range of National Curriculum subjects within mainstream classes. Each of our students are unique and therefore the support we offer is tailored to each individual's needs. We are able to offer the following support if and when it is required:

- A Total Communication approach to language; ensuring a student's language needs are met whether this is BSL, SSE, an auditory oral approach or a mixture of these.
- Radio aid technology that is maintained onsite to ensure students have the best access to sound within the classroom environment.
- Support from highly trained staff including Teachers of the Deaf, Educational Communicators, Deaf Support Assistants and Audiology Technician.
- Acoustically treated classrooms and teaching from staff that are Deaf aware.
- Structured and visual programmes to build the skills of reading, grammar and spelling including colourful semantics
- A commitment to academic achievement, which enables young people to access the world of work or further education and to be fully functioning members of society.
- Deaf adult role models.
- BSL signing classes for young people, families and staff. Students are able to sit Signature's BSL Level 1 and 2 awards which provides them with qualifications they can use as they move forward in their education.
- Support for student's social, emotional and mental health development through targeted interventions. Our staff have training in the NDCS' Healthy Minds programme. This accredited intervention tackles issues such as low self-esteem, isolation, stress and anxiety. It encourages the use of positive strategies for dealing with change, managing deafness, developing confidence and building social skills.
- A Deaf Awareness Curriculum that develops autonomy in our deaf young people to ensure they are able to advocate for themselves.
- A Theory of Mind programme to identify gaps in understanding and provide focused teaching to overcome these difficulties. There are strong links between poor theory of mind and difficulties with mental health in deaf young people so it is important we support this development.
- A tailored careers curriculum to support students with transitioning to the next phase of their education and empowering them ready for the world of work. This unit also focuses on young people's rights in the workplace, how to manage their access needs and where to seek further support and guidance.

We are also committed to drawing upon the specialisms of external professionals when required such as Speech and Language Therapists and Deaf CAMHS.