



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

At Lister Community School, we believe that deafness should not be a barrier to achievement. Our vision is that every deaf student thrives academically, socially and emotionally whilst developing the knowledge, confidence and independence needed to lead fulfilling lives and successfully transition into further education, employment and adulthood.

The Deaf Support Department (DSD) is Newham's specialist Resource Provision for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. We provide a nurturing, ambitious and inclusive environment where students are empowered to develop a strong sense of identity, advocate for their needs and achieve their full potential.

We are committed to ensuring that every student has equitable access to learning through high-quality teaching, specialist support and the effective use of technology. Through personalised provision, students are supported to overcome barriers to learning whilst developing the skills needed to become resilient, independent and successful members of society.

Our provision is underpinned by the following principles:

### **High Aspirations and Achievement**

We maintain ambitious expectations for all students and support them to achieve the very best academic outcomes. Students are encouraged to develop a love of learning and leave Lister equipped for their chosen post 16 pathway.

### **Communication Without Limits**

We recognise and celebrate diverse communication preferences. Using a Total Communication approach, we support students through British Sign Language (BSL), Sign Supported English (SSE), spoken English and auditory-oral approaches, ensuring every student can communicate effectively and confidently.

### **Independence and Self-Advocacy**

Students are taught to understand their deafness, manage their audiological equipment, communicate their access needs and confidently advocate for themselves in education, employment and wider society.

### **Positive Deaf Identity and Belonging**

We celebrate deaf culture and promote positive deaf identity through access to deaf role models, Deaf Awareness education and opportunities to engage with the wider deaf community. Students are encouraged to take pride in who they are and recognise deafness as an important part of their identity.

### **Preparation for Adulthood**

Our curriculum and support programmes prepare students for life beyond school. We focus on developing independence, employability skills, decision-making, wellbeing and the confidence to navigate the challenges and opportunities of adult life.



## **Inclusion and Participation**

Deaf students are active members of the school community and participate fully in all aspects of school life. We work collaboratively with staff, families and external agencies to remove barriers and create an environment where every student can flourish.

## **Specialist Expertise**

Students benefit from support from a highly skilled multidisciplinary team, including Qualified Teachers of the Deaf, Educational Communicators, Deaf Support Assistants and Audiology Technicians. We also work closely with Speech and Language Therapists, Audiology Services, Deaf CAMHS and other specialist professionals to ensure students receive the support they need.

## **Developing the Whole Child**

We place equal importance on academic achievement, communication, wellbeing and personal development. Through targeted interventions and pastoral support, students develop resilience, social understanding, emotional literacy and the confidence to build positive relationships.

Our aim is that every student leaves Lister as a confident, capable and self-assured young adult who understands their strengths, embraces their identity and is fully prepared for the next stage of their journey.