
HEARING IMPAIRMENT

HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS

A hearing impairment is when a student has a difficulty apprehending sound.



INTRODUCTION

What is a hearing impairment?

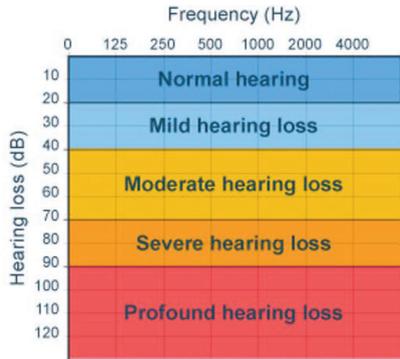
A hearing impairment is where the individual has difficulty with apprehending sounds. The image opposite shows there are different levels of hearing impairments, determined by an audiological assessment, which you'll already be familiar with.

What barriers to learning does having a hearing impairment present?

Students with a hearing impairment may face difficulties with their learning but they will find different strategies that work for them.

A few barriers they may find are:

- They may have a slower rate in language development.
- In a loud environment, they may not be able to hear instructions from their teacher clearly.
- In the classroom, they may find they have reduced attention and concentration due to lip-reading and listening.
- They may find difficulty with multitasking, for example, taking notes and listening, or lip-reading and/or watching demonstrations at the same time.
- Difficulty with general listening skills: word and language processing, accessing certain speech sounds (including different tones).



WHO SUPPORTS MY CHILD IN SCHOOL?

Teachers regularly assess a child's progress to help plan for appropriate provisions to support your child in school. Your child, dependent on their level of hearing loss will also have termly contact with the Qualified Teacher for the Deaf who comes into school to offer support and liaises directly with students' consultants.

There is also Miss Green, the Key Worker for students with hearing impairments, Miss Green checks up regularly on students to monitor their progress and to help with any concerns they may have as she knows first-hand some of the barriers they may be facing, having a hearing impairment herself and as a result wears two hearing aids.

WHAT SUPPORT CAN MY CHILD GET FOR EXAMINATIONS?

Your child may well be entitled to extra support when it comes to sitting their exams, however this does depend what the student's 'normal way of working' is. There are assessments that can be done to establish what support may be needed, if any. If you have any queries regarding this, you can contact Mrs Heath, our SENDCo, who will be more than happy to give you the information you need regarding this.

Please note, referrals to the Sensory Support Service, particularly the Qualified Teacher of the Deaf, will only be made with prior parental consent.

If you have any questions or queries regarding your child please contact Mrs A Heath (SENDCo) or Miss Green, Key Worker for students with hearing impairments.



Mrs Amelia Heath
SENDCo



Miss Green
Key Worker for students
with HI



SO WHAT CAN YOU AS A PARENT/CARER DO TO SUPPORT?

There are many ways in which you can support your child:



Always maintain a positive attitude towards your child's hearing impairment. This will support them a great deal. Your child being confident in dealing with their hearing impairment is really important.



Allow your child to participate in different activities, despite them having a hearing impairment, it is not something that should hold them back to the point where they do not socialise at all.



When giving instructions out at home, ensure that you are speaking directly to their face, with no loud background noise that is going to distract them.



Where possible, ensure that when you are gathering as a family that one person speaks at a time. Having multiple people talking at one time will be off-putting for your child and they will struggle to hear when spoken to.



Support your child with their homework and reading. You can pronounce words to them that will support with their language development.



Attend all appointments for your child regarding their hearing impairment, things can change at any point so it is important that you keep up to date with the check-ups.



Always communicate with the school in regards to the hearing impairment: making us aware of any upcoming appointments and then sharing any outcomes of the appointments by feeding back to Mrs Heath, Erdington Academy's SENDCo.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can we contact at Erdington Academy if we have any queries?

You can always contact the school and speak to Miss Green, who is the key worker for hearing impaired students. Alternatively, you can also speak to the school's SENDCo, Mrs Heath. Both would be happy to answer any queries that you may have and to support where it is needed.

☎ **0121 373 1080**

✉ **enquiry@erdingtonacademy.fmat.co.uk**

What support can we get outside of school?

Outside of the school community, there are different avenues you can explore for extra support, should you feel you need it. Birmingham City Council offer advice and guidance.

The National Deaf Children's Society is a great platform for supporting with hearing impairments www.ndcs.org.uk, on here you will find parents speaking of their own experiences of having a child with a hearing impairment.

Please note, referrals to the Sensory Support Service and the Hearing Impairment Team can only be made by consultants and GPS only.

