

Learning Support FAQs - The Hearing Impaired Department (HI Dept)

- **Where do I go when I arrive in the morning?**

The Hearing Impaired Department is open from 8.30 in the morning and you are encouraged to come in to have a hearing aid check and to say hello before you start your day.

- **What can I do if I can't cope with busy/noisy breaks and lunchtimes?**

We have space upstairs in the general learning support department for you to come to – here we have staff on duty every break and lunch. You are welcome to have a drink, snack, your lunch or play a game in this area.

- **What if I get lost or I am late to a lesson?**

To start with it will take time to learn your timetable and to find your way around school so it will be natural for you to occasionally get lost or be late for lessons. In time you will familiarise yourself with the school and will know the routine so you will be able to arrive on time to all of lessons. Teachers will understand and you will not get into trouble in the first few weeks if you get lost and are therefore late to your lesson. There is a warning bell after breaks and lunchtimes which tells pupils to get organised and to make your way to your next lessons.

- **Where can I have my lunch, as I don't like canteens, as they are too noisy for me...**

We have space upstairs in the learning support general area which are open during breaks and lunchtimes and have staff on duty. You are welcome to have a drink, snack and to eat your lunch in these areas.

- **What happens if I need new batteries for my hearing aid?**

We encourage you to try and remember bring in your own but a Communication Support Worker will have some, or you can go to the hearing impaired base where we have lots available.

- **What happens if my hearing aid stops working?**

Let someone know and we will bring you to the hearing impaired department to do a few checks, if we can't fix it ourselves – we will let your parent/carers and teachers know and pass the information on to audiology. Often- your tubing just needs a clean!

- **Will I have a radio aid?**

If you have used one in primary school and it comes with you – that's fantastic. Our staff and teachers are all used to wearing them and using them. If you don't the school can apply to get one for you.

- **What happens if I can't hear in the classroom?**

Tell someone! We have over 60 classrooms which have sound field systems in them which should help to amplify the teacher's voice and not pick up the background noise. All our staff are regularly trained to provide the most appropriate listening environments that they can. But, please tell a member of staff if you are struggling to access the teacher's voice or instructions.

- **Do I have to study all the lessons on the timetable?**

We will have access to a broad and balanced curriculum at St Pauls. There may be times, following discussions with your parents and agreement with the Head teacher that you might remove a lesson from your timetable. The lesson will be replaced with supported study periods. See below.

- **What are supported study periods?**

Supported study periods will be on your timetable when you are not attending a subject and will be in the hearing impaired department instead. Supported study periods can be used for a number of different reasons: group therapies, project work, homework completion, numeracy and literacy intervention or reflection time. Specialist interventions such as social skills training, programmes to support emotional wellbeing and mental health and language intervention, by our Speech and Language Therapists, will also occur during this time.

- **What support will I receive in the classroom?**

There are Communication Support Workers (CSWs) or Learning Support Assistants (LSA) in all subject areas who will be available to support you in a range of curriculum areas. They can support using a combination of British Sign Language (BSL) and aural support. Their support can vary from 1:1 to explaining a task or information and then they move away to promote independence. The class teacher will also interact with you on a 1:1 basis. To develop independence, and to avoid reliance on individual staff, we do not offer the same CSW/LSA full time so you will have different CSW/LSAs for different subject areas.

To support your written work you could also have access to alternative methods of recording ideas such as use of an electronic notebook.

- **What support will I receive outside of the classroom?**

Every student is different therefore the support you will receive outside the classroom can vary. You could have access to regular speech and language therapy and therapeutic

intervention, 1:1 sessions to support your learning and 1:1 Teacher of the Deaf time. Reading, numeracy and spelling programmes could also be offered.