



Westcliffe Hearing Support Resource Base Provision Handbook

Introduction

Welcome to Westcliffe's Hearing Support Base!

Westcliffe Hearing Support Base is the resource base for hearing impaired children of primary age in North Lincolnshire. It caters for children with a severe or profound hearing loss and we accept children with an Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP). On occasion, we accept children who do not have an EHCP on an assessment basis.

The resource base consists of two purpose built rooms, which are carpeted and acoustically treated to ensure the optimum listening conditions for children with hearing impairments. The children are first and foremost members of their mainstream class, but need specialist teaching and support in order to develop language and fully access the Curriculum. This involves a combination of 1:1 or small group work with the teacher of the deaf, as well as specialist teaching assistant support whilst in mainstream classes. The time spent in mainstream lessons varies depending on the needs of the child and their ability to access mainstream teaching.

In the Base we use a Total Communication approach by which we mean that a number of modes of communication are used such as listening and spoken language, lip reading, signs to support spoken English, and written and visual aids. The approach and types of communication we use varies depending on the

particular needs and abilities of the child. The teacher of the deaf and teaching assistants hold BSL qualifications and have experience of working with children who use this as their primary communication mode. Our overall aim is to provide a caring, secure and supportive environment in which our children can enjoy their learning and make the best progress they can depending on their individual starting points and abilities. This is achieved through specialist teaching and appropriate support.

Aims of the Base

- To facilitate access to a broad and balanced curriculum through the provision of specialist teaching and opportunities for inclusion into mainstream classes.
- To ensure the full involvement of the children with hearing impairment in the life of the school.
- To facilitate language development, listening and other communication skills through the use of spoken language and Sign Supported English, if required.
- To develop a close working relationship with families to support and develop the needs of the child.
- To make effective audiological management a priority so that children have the best access to their learning environment.
- To facilitate the development of language and social skills, tracking these skills using specialist assessments.
- To work with external professionals such as Audiologists, Speech and Language Therapists and Auditory Implant Teams to ensure a multi - disciplinary package of support appropriate to each child's needs.
- To ensure that the children in our care develop a positive self-image and feel valued members of the school community.
- To provide mainstream staff with deaf awareness training and guidance in how best to support the children with hearing impairments in their classes.



Support

All the children in the Base have support, which is timetabled to suit their individual needs. Support focuses on developing language skills and enabling access to the curriculum where possible. This will involve 1:1 work or small group work with a teacher of the deaf or Hearing Specialist as well as support in mainstream lessons.

Audiology

The children's equipment and Radio Aid systems are checked each morning to ensure that they have optimal access to the learning environment. Effective use of the equipment is monitored and encouraged throughout the school day. Children are encouraged to develop independence in managing their equipment and reporting faults.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

The children's progress is tracked and monitored in line with school strategies and the school assessment policy. Where needed, adaptations are made to reflect the child's learning needs. In addition, each child has an individual Support Plan that focuses on specific targets and is reviewed on a termly basis. Parents and where possible, pupils, are invited to contribute to these plans

Additional assessments include:

- Speech Discrimination Testing
- Language Assessments
- Additional Reading Assessments
- Speech assessments, carried out by the Speech and Language Therapist.

Transport

Where a child attends the Base from outside the school's catchment area, transport may be provided in line with the Local Authority's policy. Where the child wishes to attend an extra - curricular activity after school, every effort is made to facilitate this.

Links with Parents

We are proud of the close links we develop with parents and encourage close liaison between home and school. Parents are given the opportunity to come into school once a term to discuss their child's Support Plan. Child centred EHCP Review meetings are held annually. The child's progress over the year is discussed and outcomes for the forthcoming year are agreed. Daily communication with parents and carers is encouraged through Home/school diaries or Whatsapp.



Social Events

At Christmas and in the Summer Term, the children in the Base plan, set up and run a café for peers, staff, family and other specially invited guests. The café experience provides opportunities for engaging and meaningful Numeracy and Literacy work, as well as encouraging the development of social competency and communication skills.

Twice a year, children with significant hearing impairments from other mainstream schools in the area are invited to join the Westcliffe children for enrichment days such as a day of cooking or a visit to Normanby Hall. These provide opportunities for friendships to develop amongst a wider group of D/deaf peers.

Transition

Children and their families are given enhanced support when considering secondary placement and we plan carefully for a smooth transition to the school of their choice. Some children transition to local mainstream secondary schools where they continue to receive support from the Hearing Support Team as appropriate. There is no specialist resource provision for children with hearing impairment in North Lincolnshire. Children who require a higher level of support may transition to Doncaster School for the Deaf or to specialist resource provisions attached to secondary schools in Hull or Doncaster.



Westcliffe Hearing Support Base

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