

# Weston All Saints Primary School

## Hearing Impaired Resource Base



The Hearing Impaired Resource Base (HIRB) is an important, integral part of the mainstream school and pupils using the HIRB are fully included in all aspects of the school, yet still maintain their own identity. Classrooms have been adapted to provide acoustic conditions that reduce background noise. The HIRB itself is a purpose-built, sound-proofed classroom, which is used for one-to-one or small group work.

### Our Pupils

We currently support pupils with moderate, severe and profound hearing losses across the age range 4 - 11 years. Many of our pupils have received cochlear implants and some children may have additional needs. As there are a number of children with a hearing impairment at the school, they are able to develop their identities and form deaf friendships if they wish.

### Support

Pupils follow the National Curriculum and are fully integrated in their mainstream classes with access to specialist resourced rooms, when necessary. Any support offered will be tailored to suit the needs of the child and will be decided upon by the class teacher and the HIRB staff to ensure that every pupil is accessing the curriculum and reaching their full potential.

### Support may include:

- 1 - 1 support in class or in the HIRB
- Small Group for focused activities
- Reversed integration groups
- Social Use of Language Groups
- Pre-tutoring of vocabulary or topics that will be taught in class
- Revision of concepts taught in class



**Individual Education Plans** are written termly, highlighting targets and goals, which are discussed with pupils, parents, teachers, learning support assistants and Speech and Language Therapists. These targets focus on the specific needs of the child.

## **Staff**

Our HIRB staff include a teacher who wholly specialises in working with the Hearing Impaired children at the school and a Learning Support Assistant who both work closely with the classroom teachers to aid differentiation and maximise support.

Our Headteacher and staff have many years' experience of working with children with hearing impairments. We have a specialised understanding of their communication needs and promote inclusive practices.

## **Communication**

Our aim is to match the mode of communication to the specific needs of the pupil, and the learning context. Most of the pupils follow a natural oral/aural approach to encourage speaking and listening, but for others BSL or Signed Supported English is more appropriate. As well as enabling access to the curriculum, sign is also sometimes used in poetry and songs during our weekly class Assemblies, to promote improved communication skills for all pupils.

## **Deaf Awareness**

All staff receive training in Deaf Awareness; some teachers and Learning Support Assistants have attended sign language classes. Deaf Awareness is demonstrated at a special whole school Assembly and further discussed in each Year Group.



## **Parent Support**

Parents and carers are always welcome in school and there are many opportunities to meet with staff:

Termly Parent/Teacher Interviews

IEP and Annual Review Meetings

Curriculum Educational Evenings

Educational Visit Information Sessions

Class Assemblies

Meetings with Speech and Language Therapists and other outside agencies

Social Events

HIRB children use a Home-Link book to keep staff and parents in good day-to-day contact.

## Liaison

We liaise closely with the Local Authority Sensory Support Service:

- to facilitate a smooth induction programme for pre-school pupils.
- to support the transfer of Year 6 pupils into their secondary schools.



We also work closely with the following outside agencies:

- Speech and Language Therapy Service
- Local Hospital Audiology Depts
- Psychology Service.
- Cochlear Implant Centres.

A speech therapist visits the school on two days a week and has contact with any children in the school who need speech and language support. Most HIRB children have contact once a week but the frequency is dependent upon their need.

## Resources

In order to gain optimum access to the curriculum, the HIRB pupils benefit from the use of personal FM Radio Aid systems, where appropriate. As well as the many specialised language resources available in the HIRB we have access to our own computers and software. School resources include a digital camera, video camera, computer suite and Interactive Smartboards. Pupils have their own drawers in the HIRB and are encouraged to leave spare batteries and any other day-to day equipment that may be needed during their time at school to ensure their cochlear implants, or hearing aids are working to their full potential. The HIRB staff will be able to help them carry out any trouble shooting necessary, or contact appropriate outside agencies to ensure equipment is working correctly.

## Additional Activities

The school places a strong emphasis on the performing and expressive arts, and all HIRB pupils are included in activities such as dance, drama, choir and playing musical instruments for school performances. Additionally, visiting music teachers provide instrument tuition and some of our pupils are learning to play the piano, guitar and drums. Interest and Sports Clubs are available after school and HIRB pupils are strongly encouraged to attend the many extra curricular activities on offer.

If you have any queries, please contact our HIRB teacher: Mrs Smart

