Information for Schools:

Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service:
An education service which supports children with a hearing loss.

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Schools:
Ayrshire Hearing Impairment
Service:
An education service which supports children with a hearing loss.

Here to Help

We hope you have found this information helpful. If you have any questions, or would like to talk to someone, please contact us using the details below.

Mrs Fiona Smith,
Service Co-ordinator

Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service
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Crosshouse
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A Teacher of the Deaf is a qualified and experienced Primary/Secondary teacher who holds a postgraduate qualification in teaching children with a hearing impairment. They have specific skills and specialist knowledge about deafness. Teachers of the Deaf continually update their own skills and knowledge and keep abreast with ‘A Curriculum for Excellence’ and all mainstream initiatives.

* The term ‘deaf’ is used in this leaflet to refer to all types and levels of hearing loss.

**Our Service**

The Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service supports the needs of hearing impaired children and their families from diagnosis until school leaving age. Our Teachers of the Deaf (ToDs) and our Sign-Language Assistant visit children at home and in educational establishments throughout North, South and East Ayrshire.

**Supporting the Deaf Learner**

Teachers of the Deaf work with children from diagnosis and throughout their school life. We can:

- depending on the needs of the child, offer **regular** or **monitor** support. Regular support includes daily, weekly or fortnightly visits to a pupil. Monitor support comprises termly visits that allow us to check a child’s listening ability and ensure that their hearing aids are in excellent working order - this visit is also an ideal opportunity to have a chat with a pupil.
- help a child understand their hearing loss and develop a positive and healthy attitude towards their deafness.
- support a child’s independence in using and maintaining their hearing aids and other equipment.
- regularly monitor/assess a child’s ability to listen at school and communicate with the Audiology department at Crosshouse Hospital.
- if required, support development of a child’s signing skills.
- provide opportunities for deaf children to meet and enjoy the company of other children with a hearing loss.
- work closely with a deaf child’s family.

**Supporting Teachers & Education**

Teachers of the Deaf understand the impact of a hearing loss. They know and can advise on teaching strategies which best support a deaf child.

We can:

- provide up-to-date information on a pupil’s hospital audiograms and reports.
- provide in-service training and help staff learn about a pupil’s hearing loss and their equipment.
- advise school staff on suitable teaching strategies and resources.
- directly support/teach a deaf child in their school environment.
- ensure staff know how to provide good listening conditions for a deaf child.
- liaise with staff and plan and prepare lessons/resources to support a child’s learning.
- attend review meetings and provide reports on your child’s progress.