

Background noise and poor acoustics

All hearing aid wearers will have difficulty with speech perception in background noise in the following environments

- Rooms with high ceilings
- Rooms / areas without carpets or soft furnishings
- Tiled, sparsely furnished rooms
- Halls, gymnasiums, dining rooms
- Rooms with a high proportion of glass
- Open plan areas
- Seats near doors, printers, 'busy areas'

If you require further information, training or advice please contact
The Hearing Impairment Service
Council House, Mary Stevens Park
Stourbridge
DY8 2AA
Tel: 01384 818009 Fax: 01384 814241
Website: www.dudley.gov.uk/sis

Directorate of Children's Services

Hearing Impairment Service



Managing a Moderate Hearing Loss

Name of child:.....

School:.....

Date:.....

Teacher of the Deaf:.....



Pupils with a moderate hearing loss will usually wear hearing aids but may still have difficulties:

- Responding to a quiet voice
- Locating the source of sound
- Perceiving speech in poor acoustic conditions—eg assembly hall, dining room, gymnasium
- Following class discussion
- Hearing when they are suffering with a cold
- Phonic blending

To minimise their hearing difficulties pupils should be:

- Seated within 3 metres of the speaker
- Able to see the remainder of his/her group
- Seated where it is easy to see the speaker
- Seated with his/her back to any bright light or window
- Hearing the answers and questions of peers

Pupils with moderate hearing difficulties are heavily dependent upon lip-reading, visual cues and proximity to the speaker

What can staff do to help?

- Ensure that you face the pupils when you speak to them
- Ensure that you are within 3 metres of the pupils
- Avoid standing in front of a window or bright light
- Try and stay in one place when teaching
- Reinforce new or subject specific vocabulary with the written word and visual cues
- Repeat the contribution of other pupils to ensure that the pupil with a hearing impairment does not miss information
- Try to keep background noise to a minimum
- Make good use of specialist equipment—FM system which helps to overcome the effects of background noise and poor acoustics
- Ask one member of staff to take responsibility for checking aids of young children, your teacher of the Deaf will provide training.