

The Hearing Advisory Team in IDS Teaching and Learning

Aims

The Hearing Advisory Team supports the inclusion of pupils with hearing loss from birth to 18 years. The team works with pupils and families at home, in early year settings, mainstream schools and special schools throughout Warwickshire. We aim to assist schools in understanding the impact of hearing loss on learning and in raising the educational standards and achievements of these pupils.

Staff

We have 1 Specialist Service Leader and 9 Hearing Advisory Teachers, including 2 Educational Audiologists. We have one sign language tutor and 8 specialist teaching assistants.

Referrals

We receive notification of the medical diagnosis directly from our colleagues in the Health Service. Diagnosis now takes place at birth with newborn hearing screening. We respond to these referrals within 48 hours and aim to be present when the parents are told of their child's hearing loss. We also receive referral of school age pupils and we respond to these within 7 working days. Our educational audiologists work directly with local hospitals and in schools. They are involved with assessments at Child Development Centres. We also accept referrals directly from schools with parental permission and evidence of a recent hearing test result.

Assessment

We undertake informal assessments both at home and school and gain information and advice from parents. We talk to school staff and gather the views of all relevant professionals, eg the specialist speech and language therapists, social workers to deaf people and educational psychologists. We use standardised tests and profiles of development. We listen carefully to the pupils and learn from our teaching activities with them. Written assessment reports are provided for school and parents and discussed with pupils wherever possible. Pupils with hearing loss are assessed regularly in clinics.

IEP Recommendations

We prioritise the development of language and communication, literacy, numeracy, and the development of thinking and independence. We focus on the social inclusion of every pupil. We advise on a range of teaching strategies to enable access to the curriculum and recommend SMART targets for each review period. We offer good examples of differentiation and promote the need for good

acoustic environments and adaptations to the classroom to take account of the needs of pupils with hearing loss. We clarify the educational implications of medical advice.

Teaching and Support in the Classroom

We offer specialist teaching, either individually or in small groups, both for pupils with statements and at 'school action plus'. We support learning across the curriculum from the foundation stage through key stages 1, 2, 3, and 4. We also work with pupils at AS and AS2 level in mainstream schools. . We assist schools in developing their pupils' listening and communication skills including sign language. We work with pupils to develop good auditory awareness and promote good hearing aid use at home and in school. At the early years stage we support a family centred approach and promote learning through play.

Reviews

We will attend annual reviews for pupils both in Warwickshire and 'out county'. We attend reviews of pupils at 'school action plus', whenever pupils give particular cause for concern and at transition to different key stages and schools. We maintain a confidential file for each pupil with whom we work. This contains initial referral and assessment information, professional reports, IEPs, review notes and minutes, audiological reports, correspondence, visit reports, contact form and records of pupil progress. It also contains the views and contributions of the family and pupil. We include the evidence of the impact of our support in line with the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters. Families also have their own family file.

Curriculum Resources and Equipment.

We loan books, materials and educational toys to pupils, parents and schools. We supply radio aids and other amplification devices for use in the classroom. . Educational Audiologists and Hearing Advisory Teachers advise on the appropriate use of specialist equipment, teaching materials and the use of sound field systems.

Partnership with Families

We meet families at home and at school and provide a telephone number for future contact. Service, government and voluntary organisation documentation is provided for all families. We welcome the full involvement of families in assessment, IEP planning and reviews. We promote deaf role models and offer sign language tuition when appropriate. Families may be introduced to each other and to parent support groups. We provide information about local and national associations and Warwickshire Parent Partnership. We arrange access to the Sign Language Interpreting Service.

Professional Development

We provide whole school deaf awareness and training in a way that is sensitive to the needs and wishes of each pupil. We train teachers and assistants to develop specific skills necessary for the inclusive education of pupils with hearing loss. We participate in deaf awareness training for adults and school peers. We provide training on using and testing hearing aids. We are involved in training with our professional colleagues in health and social services.

Warwickshire and Regional Networks

We work co-operatively with all services and agencies involved with pupils with hearing loss. This includes the Warwickshire Primary Care Trust, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, Cochlear Implant Teams, Services to Deaf People and National Voluntary Organisations (NDCS and RNID). We participate in all regular inter-agency meetings in Warwickshire and liaise with neighbouring Support Services for pupils with hearing loss.

Making Contact

For more information, please telephone the IDS Teaching and Learning Base

Centre/South Tel: 01926 746860
Fax: 01926 424084

North/East Tel: 01926 418282
Fax: 02476 360850

The Hearing Advisory Team in IDS Teaching and Learning
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/discs

Other Useful websites

Services to Deaf People
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/servicestodeafpeople

Sign Language Interpreting Service in Coventry and Warwickshire
office@cwslis.co.uk

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) www.ndcs.co.uk

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID) www.rnid.org.uk