

## Overview

Bournville School Hearing Impaired Resource (H.I.R.B) is a resource base provision for deaf secondary aged pupils and is situated in the south area of Birmingham. Our resource is for pupils with an Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that have moderate to profound deafness as their primary need.

The Resource Base specifically caters to the needs of deaf children as an integral and specialist part of a mainstream school. We provide support from a range of specialist staff that ensure the needs of the deaf pupils are fully met within the daily life of the school.

The Resource Base team support individual students in mainstream lessons, clarifying and explaining any new language. We complete feedback sheets every lesson, enabling us to check on any reinforcement that may be required.

We use a philosophy of Total Communication policy, which embraces lip-reading, speaking, use of amplified residual hearing, sign support systems, reading, writing, notetaking, Sign Supported English (SSE) and British Sign Language (BSL).

## **Purpose of the Resource Base**

Our resourced provision provides specialist support for deaf children and young people. The base should ensure that children make good educational progress and reduce or close any attainment gap that was existing between them and their peers on entry to school, so that deaf children and young people

- are happy at school, feel included and can fully participate in school life
- have deaf peers and develop a sense of deaf identity
- move successfully on to a new school, further education or work

## **Aims of the Resource Base**

Bournville Resource Base aims to ensure that:

- Students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Members of the base are fully integrated into school life.
- Deaf children are provided with a multidisciplinary package of support appropriate to their needs. This may also involve external professionals from outside of the unit.
- All mainstream staff receive deaf awareness training and are given guidance to support deaf children in their class.
- Children's language and social skills are developed and tracked using specialist assessments.
- Children receive direct specialist teaching focusing upon language and communication.
- Audiological management is of high priority, so that children have the best access to their learning environment, through the regular care, maintenance and monitoring of audiological equipment.
- A close working relationship is developed with parents in order to meet the needs of the child.

## **Curriculum**

The resource base provides effective support to mainstream teachers to ensure that the curriculum is:

- accessible to deaf children and young people across the full range of subjects and activities
- differentiated to meet individual needs of deaf children and young people.

## **Resource Base Lessons**

Students are educated within the mainstream for the majority of the time. Teaching within the base covers a broad spectrum of the curriculum at an appropriate level, with a particular focus on language development.

Direct teaching within the base involves:

- Individual or small group pre and post tutoring
- Subject specialist vocabulary input
- Individual Education Plan Interventions
- Specialist Language Interventions (BSL and English)

## **School Routine**

Our students come to the Resource Base each morning, before the start of school, to check that their hearing aids, cochlear implants and radio aid systems are working properly. We encourage as much pupil responsibility for audiology equipment as possible.

Students then attend their tutor registration session with their hearing peers, before either going to mainstream lessons or being

withdrawn for specialist teaching in the Resource Base. This is dependent on individual needs.

One to one tutorials are available for students before tutor registration time in the mornings and at the end of the school day. This is to allow for the reinforcement of the curriculum, as well as the development of vocabulary and communication skills.

### **Staffing**

There are currently two members of staff in the Resource Base at Bournville.

Miss Nisbett is a teacher, who has a degree in Deaf Studies and Linguistics, BSL Level 6 and experience working with deaf pupils.

Miss Kauser is a HI specialist, who has over 8 years supporting deaf students and has BSL Level 6.

Resource Base staff attend regular whole school and deaf specific training to gain up to date knowledge and continue to develop their skills.

## **Audiology**

The provision benefits from regular visits from an Educational Audiologist (from Access to Education) and a fast response from audiological technicians who support with radio equipment and other technologies to help hearing impaired and Deaf students to maximise their residual hearing.

We maintain close links with all of Birmingham City's clinics and liaise with clinicians to support our pupils' audiological management.

We have the expectation that students will develop independence in managing their own audiological equipment and they are encouraged in this at every opportunity to enable them to value their residual hearing and prepare for life after school. Pupils' equipment is checked thoroughly every morning and staff are skilled to carry out basic repairs on hearing aids.

All mainstream school staff are trained in Deaf Awareness and have the opportunity to liaise with the Resource Base through more formal training or daily informal contact. External agencies Pupils benefit from regular visits from specialist Speech and Language Therapists (SALT) trained and experienced in working with hearing impaired and Deaf students. The SALT work to assess pupils' needs and will plan a programme of pupils' work to meet individual needs where appropriate. The staff within the HIRB follow the plan and work to help the student meet agreed speech and language targets.

## **Access Arrangements**

Access arrangements for examinations are implemented from year 7, so that students are given the opportunity to practice in preparation for their G.C.S.E exams. Resource base students can potentially receive the following provisions:

- Exams in a separate room instead of the hall.
- A reader to read material in their examination (except for English).
- A BSL signer if required.
- An Oral Language Modifier, who will provide reasonable adjustments in examinations to make the language accessible to the student.
- Each student will be required to undertake a formal assessment to determine whether they are eligible for the provisions above.

### **New students**

Prospective students and their parents/guardians are always welcomed at Bournville School.

Before joining our base, it is advisable to book a visit to look around the whole school and spend some time with our staff. This will give you and your child the opportunity to see what we have to offer and to get a feel of the school.

Your child may get the opportunity to meet some current students and talk to them about their experiences of Bournville School. A Teacher of the Deaf will liaise with your child's current provision and visit your child there to ensure good transfer of information and allow your child to get to know the teacher.

New pupils will have the opportunity to visit the Resource Base and spend a morning here. This will take place a week before the whole school induction day. Additional transition activities may be planned depending on need.

Coffee mornings will also be available during certain days throughout the year for parents and students to learn more about Bournville Resource Base.



### **Home/School Links**

The Resource Base staff can always be contacted via telephone, email or through a note in the student diary. We encourage and welcome communication between home and school to build consistency for the student and to resolve any issues that may impact on the student's education.