



HIGHLAND DEAF EDUCATION AND HEARING SUPPORT SERVICE

Information For Parents, Carers,
Families, Children and Young
People.

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Services. Tania Mackie.

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REFERRAL ROUTE:

Most of our referrals come straight from Audiology or ENT – with a parental/carer agreement. We then visit or send a questionnaire to home & school to ascertain how we can best help. Referrals can also be accepted from parents and schools. In such cases, a check is made to establish that there is a hearing loss.

SPECIALIST SUPPORT SERVICE:

We have close links with:

- Audiology
- ENT
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Social Work
- Educational Psychology
- School and pre-school staff
- Parents
- Community and Hospital Paediatrics
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Voluntary Sector
- Assistive Technology

WHO DOES THE SERVICE WORK WITH?

Highland Deaf Education Staff work in partnership with parents, colleagues from Education, Health, Social Work and Voluntary agencies to ensure that the needs of Deaf and hearing impaired children are supported. The Council promotes an inclusive approach to service provision and takes account of individual needs and circumstances.

Who is the Service For?

Highland Deaf Education and Hearing Support Service aims to offer support and advice to hearing impaired children, their families and school staff working with the child. We support children from diagnosis to leaving school. The main focus of our work is with severe and profoundly deaf pupils. However, we can also support and offer advice to pupils with mild and moderate hearing losses including glue ear.

What is our role?

Our role is to support the hearing impaired pupil and their family from diagnosis to leaving school. The support may be given at home, in the local school or in the additionally resourced schools in Dingwall. Our contact with a child varies depending on how a child copes with their hearing impairment. Contact can be as little as sending a glue ear information leaflet or as much as a specialist one to one teaching. We have a small number of peripatetic staff who travel to support hearing impaired pupils in their local school.



WHAT CAN THE SERVICE OFFER?

- Specialist teaching
- Advice and support for hearing impaired pupils and their peers.
- Advice and support for class teachers and other staff.
- Deaf awareness training for class teachers, ancillary staff & pupils.
- Home visits for pre-school children.
- Sign language tuition to families, hearing impaired pupils and peers.
- Advice regarding room layout and specialist equipment.
- Assessment of Acoustic Environment.
- Provision of radio aids and appropriate listening devices.
- Training in the use of specialist equipment.
- Local of a limited range or equipment.
- Advice with regard to specialist exam arrangements.
- Support group for parents of pre-school hearing impaired pupils.
- Links with other agencies



HOW WE OFFER SERVICES?

How we offer services varies with each individual, depending on the level of hearing impairment. The parents of children with glue ear are contacted by letter and advice is usually given by phone.

Pupils who have been issued with a hearing aid will usually be visited to check they can change the batteries, switch it on etc.

Children who have been diagnosed with a severe or profound hearing loss will receive regular visits either at home, in a pre-school placement or in school. Dingwall Primary and Dingwall Academy are both additionally resourced for hearing impaired pupils. Some families opt to send their children to school in Dingwall, where a great deal of expertise in relation to hearing impairments has been built up.

Some pupils travel to Dingwall every day. Others have a split placement with their local school and some come every few weeks to enable them to socialise with other hearing impaired pupils.

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