



Bournville School Hearing Impaired Resource Base

Bournville School H.I.R.B is a resource based provision for hearing impaired and Deaf secondary aged pupils situated in the south area of Birmingham. It is part of a Sensory Resource base which also includes provision for visually impaired and blind students.

We believe that hearing impaired and Deaf students have the right to access all areas of school life fully and equally.

We aim to ensure this access by:

- Enabling effective inclusion into mainstream.
- Embracing the philosophy of Total Communication
- Working in partnership with pupil, parent, all school staff and outside agencies.

Intake

Bournville School HIRB is equipped to meet the needs of pupils with moderate to profound sensori-neural hearing loss.

Specialist Staff

The Resource Base is staffed by two qualified and experienced Teachers of the Deaf (QTODs) and two specialist Learning Support Assistants, with additional support provided by trained staff from within the HUB. Support is tailored to meet individual pupil needs but may include

- In class support
- Individual or small group pre and post tutoring
- Individual or small group speech and language intervention
- Development of pupils' listening skills.
- Access to language and reading groups offered within the HUB
- Management of access arrangements for tests and exams

Communication

Bournville School HIRB operates a policy of Total Communication. This means offering a range of communication styles to meet each child's communication needs and ensure best access to the National Curriculum. We promote use of lip reading, speaking, use of amplified residual hearing, reading, writing; note taking and signed systems. Staff may use British Sign Language, Signed English, Sign Supported

English and visual phonics as needed. Specialized staff all have BSL qualifications the highest level being NVQ Level 4.

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 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 post aural and cochlear devices 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.

Mainstream

HIRB students are educated within the mainstream for the majority of the time. Support is planned to meet individual children's needs in each subject, with a higher level of support offered in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. All mainstream school staff are trained in Deaf Awareness and have the opportunity to liaise with the TODs and specialized Learning Support Assistants through more formal training or daily informal contact. Deaf Awareness is built into the Learning for Life (L4L) curriculum enabling mainstream pupils to understand and reflect on the impact of deafness on their peers and to encourage thought around ability and celebration of individuality rather than disability.

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 targets.

Transition

Visitors and prospective students 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 TOD. 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.

Home/School Links

The HIRB 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.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in mainstream life and participate in school trips and activities. Additional activities are also planned throughout the school year to enable our students with hearing impairments to meet other young people with similar needs and to develop friendships and a support network. During these visits they are likely to meet and interact with Deaf role models. This is included to raise the students' aspirations and show them what can be achieved.