

Audiology Policy

Throughout this document the terms “deaf” and “deafness” are used to denote all types and degrees of hearing loss.

Mission Statement

Children attending Royal Cross School develop using SSE & BSL. The development of British Sign Language (BSL) and spoken/written English are equally valued and respected. We acknowledge that deafness has a marked impact on children’s ability to listen and the development of their spoken language skills. Many deaf children have the potential to develop and use their residual hearing through the use of amplification i.e. hearing aids and cochlear implants and the wide range of technological developments that support these amplification systems. At Royal Cross School, we recognise the importance of supporting the use of residual hearing and the importance of the correct audiological management of equipment to ensure that optimal listening experiences are achieved for all our deaf children.

This policy contains shared aims and objectives for the children attending Royal Cross School. It is recognised that the daily management of pupil’ s audiological needs will vary in response to the age and individual needs of each pupil.

Aims of audiological management at Royal Cross

As part of our Communication Policy, we ensure that the audiological needs of our pupils are met appropriately, working closely with the Technician and the paediatric audiology services across the Local Authority on a regular basis. We recognise the benefits of amplification may vary for each individual and so regularly review the audiological, speech & language and communication needs of each pupil. We aim to encourage children within Royal Cross to develop a positive Deaf identity whilst using amplification to support their communication and life skills.

School Objectives

- All pupil’s amplification systems are in good working order.
- All FM radio aid systems are correctly maintained and used appropriately.
- To ensure that using amplification is encouraged and seen positively throughout the school.
- To work with each child’s audiology service to ensure that pupils are provided with appropriate amplification and to liaise where needed with the Education Audiologist.
- To support staff, parents and other agencies to work together to ensure that amplification is used consistently.
- Staff make the best use of equipment in school e.g. radio aids and soundfield system.
- Audiological training for all staff is updated.
- To keep abreast of audiological developments and research and implement them in the school when they will be of benefit to the pupils or staff.

- To involve all staff/pupils in the daily checks of hearing aids and cochlear implants and to promote pupils developing independent self - care skills.
- To raise pupil awareness of
 - The importance of audiological assessment and monitoring.
 - The benefits of amplification for detecting and identifying sounds in the environment about them and for their speech and language perception and production.
 - FM and wireless microphone systems, Direct Audio Input and other devices that can increase their benefit from amplification.
- To monitor ear mould condition closely and to contact parents regarding replacements or arrange new ear mould impressions for children in Audiology clinics.
- To continually review and improve the audiological provision in the school.

Pupil Objectives

- To recognise the value of wearing their personal amplification.
- To develop a positive attitude towards developing the use of their residual hearing
- To use amplification according to individual needs.
- To take responsibility for the maintenance of their audiological equipment as is appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Provision of Amplification

At Royal Cross, there is a Soundfield System in the school hall. FM systems are obtained through discussion with the Sensory Support Teams of the LA or through the school budget.

Consistent use of amplification

It is known that maximum benefit from amplification will only be achieved if it is used consistently and if pupils are given opportunities and support to develop their auditory experience. Staff adopt a positive attitude to the appropriate prescription of hearing aids and cochlear implants to pupils and good role models exist throughout the school.

Managing the amplification needs of pupils at Royal Cross

- Staff monitor the use of hearing aids and cochlear implants on a daily basis. FM or wireless microphone systems are also checked daily to ensure that they are working optimally to provide each child with the best possible listening experience.
- An updated list of amplification users and their provided technology is held in the class Audiology File.
- Hearing aids will be tested electro - acoustically termly (6 x per year) by the class teacher or designated adult (using the school Test Box) and a record will be kept in pupil/class audiology files.

- If a hearing aid /CI is in need of repair, parents will be informed as soon as possible by telephone, Class Dojo or text. If contact with parents has not been possible, parents should be informed of the fault at the end of the day by using the standard letter in the class audiology file.
- Ear mould condition is monitored regularly by staff. Where new ear moulds are needed, parents will be informed. If there is a need then class teachers will work with the paediatric audiology services to enable this to happen. This should happen within a week of the need becoming apparent. All moulds are replaced before they are a year old.
- Where appropriate, FM systems should be available for pupils' use in both school and other working environments i.e. on school trips and in other settings.
- All staff will receive training in the use of Soundfield and FM systems. Staff will be regularly updated to any changes in technology. Visitors will be made aware of the use of FM systems and Soundfield Systems and will be provided with basic training to enable them to use the technology correctly.

Resources

- Class Audiology Files (information & trouble shooting)
- Test box (calibrated annually)
- Class packs - audiology equipment for maintenance of hearing aids & cochlear implants
- iPad and internet websites can be used for listening checks i.e. Ling sounds
- Classroom Audiology Files
- Soundfield System in use in school hall
- Batteries provided by parents from home
- Visual resources to support the independent management of audiological equipment

Monitoring

The school has a designated Audiology Co-ordinator who will monitor audiology files and support teachers with any difficulties that may arise. Teachers and the Audiology co-ordinator should follow the agreed objectives for the management of amplification equipment.

Role of the audiological co-ordinator

- To maintain a good stock of 'spares' for all equipment.
- To maintain good communication with the paediatric audiological services.
- To maintain staff training/professional development

Staff CPD

Through their membership of professional organisations and Continuing Professional Development, staff will continue to develop their audiological knowledge and expertise. Senior management, in conjunction with the Audiology Co-ordinator will identify whole school training needs and facilitate these within the schools' staff training programme.

Inclusion

Royal Cross School aims to be responsive to all aspects of diversity and to increase the learning and participation of all pupils within the school and its locality. We are developing inclusive values which are shared between all staff, pupils, governors, parents/ carers and the wider community, in a secure, accepting, collaborative and stimulating environment. Everyone is valued and diversity is seen as a rich resource to enhance and support the learning of all.

Equal Opportunities

All members of the school community should be aware that every individual has a right to be considered of equal value and be given equal opportunities regardless of:

Ethnicity
Gender (including transgender)
Social background
Disability status
HIV/ AIDS
Religion and belief
Age
Marital status
Nationality/ citizenship
Sexual orientation

In the context of the school we feel the most appropriate definition is that: Equal Opportunity is the right of everyone to equal chances, and each individual is respected for who they are, free from discrimination.

Health and Safety

Royal Cross Primary School follows LA advice. This is outlined in the school's Health and Safety document. School staff are responsible for checking that there are no obvious breaches in Health and Safety.

Conclusion

This policy summarises our whole school approach to Audiological management. However it should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Communication
- Equal Opportunities
- Health and safety