

Deaf Studies Policy

Aims:

As a specialist school for deaf children with a varied school population we recognise the importance of all pupils, D/deaf and hearing, having full and equal access to a relevant and appropriate education about deafness, BSL and deaf identity. Royal Cross recognises and values the use of British Sign Language (BSL).

In addition to the National Curriculum core and foundation subjects, all pupils at Royal Cross follow a Deaf Studies Curriculum as part of the school's PSHE curriculum. Deaf Studies lessons provide children with the opportunity to learn about their deaf identity, culture and heritage and about the various technical aids and communication methods available to them.

The Curriculum

Deaf Studies is delivered through a weekly session as part of the school's PSHE curriculum to meet the specific needs of our pupils. Both teaching staff and Deaf role models have a role in curriculum delivery and flexible use of Deaf staff within the school ensures all Deaf pupils have direct access to Deaf adult role models.

Pupils follow a structured scheme of modules outlined within the National Primary Deaf Studies Curriculum which supports children in developing their Deaf identity and their pride in being a member of the Deaf community.

The Deaf Studies Curriculum units include – Identity, Communication, Communication Technology, Deaf Community & Culture and History.

The content, assessment information, attainment targets and level descriptors are available on CD1 within the Deaf Studies Curriculum Document.

In addition to Deaf Studies weekly sessions, we work in partnership with the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) through visits by their 'listening bus'. We celebrate Deaf Awareness Week each year with a range of activities and events and we welcome children from other deaf schools/resource bases and special schools to join us in celebrating deafness.

Assessment

Ongoing formative assessment of pupils' understanding and progress informs the planning and preparation of learning opportunities by the School's Deaf Instructor. The School Deaf Instructor works in partnership with pupils' class teachers and teaching assistants to make observations and records regarding the progress of individual pupils.