

Hearing Aids

Hearing aids are designed to maximise the hearing the child has. They do not restore or replace normal hearing.

Points to consider:

- A hearing aid diminishes in efficiency with distance. The aid is most effective within a distance of 1-1.5 metres of the speaker.
- It can be difficult for a hearing aid wearer to discriminate between wanted and unwanted sounds (noise).
- Background noise e.g. chairs scraping, pencils tapping, should, therefore, be kept to a minimum to maximise access to speech.
- Sudden loud noises such as a door slamming may cause distress.
- Hearing impaired pupils experience additional difficulty in noisy classrooms. They may respond to excessive noise by switching off their hearing aids.
- A hearing aid user may have difficulty in locating the speaker or source of sound.
- A hearing aid wearer will benefit from being able to see the speaker's face at all times to gain additional information.
- Hearing impaired pupils do not always realise that their hearing aid is faulty.
- If the pupil fails to respond as normal, it may indicate a flat battery, defect etc. In such circumstances try to remedy the problem if possible with the pupil, otherwise inform pupil's parent and/or the advisory support teacher for hearing.