# Lipreading

Lipreading is the skill of watching the speaker's face, to use their lip patterns as an aid in understanding their speech. It is used with listening and hearing, facial expressions and the context of a situation, as part of the communication process.

*It is estimated that people can lipread only about 35% of what is said –*

*the rest is guesswork!*

**Remember**
- Some speech sounds are not visible on the lips - try *k.*
- Some speech sounds have the same lip patterns - try *v* and *f.*
- Exaggerated lip patterns can cause confusion
- Not all words have a lip pattern
- Some words have similar lip patterns
- You can't lipread a word you don't know
- Lipreading requires a lot of concentration and is tiring.
- It is very difficult to lipread when there is a sudden change of subject or when the context is unknown
- It is difficult for pupil to follow speech and take notes simultaneously.

**To ensure communication with hearing impaired pupil is clear and effective:**

- Face the pupil at all times when speaking to them
  - *putting something in front of your face or turning to write on the whiteboard will make it difficult for lipreading.*
  - *Get the listener's attention before you begin to speak to make sure they are looking at you.*
- Ensure that the pupil is sitting at an appropriate distance from you
  - *hearing technologies have an optimal range of 1-3m in which to access speech clearly.*
- Do not stand with your back to a light source, e.g., a window
  - *a shadow cast across your face can obstruct the pupil's view.*
- Speak clearly at normal level and pace
  - *Speaking too slowly or exaggerating lip patterns makes it more difficult to understand what is being said.*
- Make it clear when there is a new topic of conversation using visual support, e.g. objects, pictures, written headings and vocabulary.
- Allow time for pupil to move their attention from lipreading to visual support.
- Where possible, allow time to pre-tutor new vocabulary and phrases that will come up in the lesson.

**Inclusive Education Service – Sensory, Physical, Medical Team
Advisory Support Teacher for Hearing:-**