



The Educational Team for Hearing and Vision

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Who are we?

We are a specialist team who support deaf and visually impaired children and young people, their families, schools and settings from birth to the end of formal education. In North East Lincolnshire we are currently giving support to 180 children and young people.

The team consists of two Qualified Teachers of the Deaf (QToD), a Qualified Teacher of the Visually Impaired (QTVI), nine Specialist Teaching Assistants, a Habilitation Specialist and two Specialist Curriculum Support Staff.

We support families with children and young people who have been medically diagnosed with either a hearing or vision loss and have been given at least one hearing aid, cochlear implant or bone anchored hearing aid (BAHA) or has a visual impairment which cannot be corrected with prescription glasses. We support children and young people across the range of educational placements including nurseries, mainstream and special schools including Academies. We offer support term time during school hours.

What do we do?

Children and young people with a hearing or visual impairment can face many unique challenges in learning to communicate and with accessing the curriculum and their environment. Our role is to work with families, settings and other agencies to identify those challenges and support those involved with the child or young person to overcome them.

All babies have their hearing assessed at birth. If a permanent childhood hearing impairment is found, a referral is made to our team within 24 hours. This is so families can be contacted immediately and support given at what can be a very distressing time. Babies who are diagnosed with a permanent vision loss may be referred by an Ophthalmologist or Health Visitor. The team offer home-visiting to families, babies and pre-schoolers where a permanent visual or hearing impairment has been diagnosed.

What are our aims?

- We aim to provide high quality support and enhance the educational opportunities for children and young people who have needs relating to hearing or visual impairment.
- We want children and young people to be successful, independent learners who are confident and self-reliant.
- It is our vision that every learner has the opportunity to develop their independence, self-esteem, achieve their full potential and are ready for adult life.
- We aim to support the development of emotional well-being in children and young people with sensory impairment to ensure they achieve their full potential socially and emotionally.
- We consistently work within the safeguarding framework provided by the local authority.
- The team is committed to working in close partnership with parents, carers, other professionals and voluntary organisations, showing respect for individual values and without judgement.
- As part of Early Support, we aim to provide families with high quality, unbiased information enabling them to make informed choices for their children.

For further information on what services we provide, please see our Local Offer.