



The Deaf Centre at Darrick Wood

Provision for Secondary Aged Deaf
Children in Bromley, 2024-2025

Sensory Support Service



Local Offer



Griffins is the hub of the Sensory Support Service, Hearing Impairment and Vision Impairment teams.

The Sensory Support Service Hearing Impairment (SSSHI) consists of three teams providing a continuum of support for children and young people with a diagnosed hearing loss.

The Sensory Support Service HI teams support children and young people (0-19 years) with a diagnosed hearing loss, working with their families, the educational setting, and other professionals.

The wellbeing and needs of the Deaf child lie at the heart of these vibrant teams. All the Teachers of the Deaf (ToD) train regularly to keep abreast of new research and technology in the field of Audiology and Deaf Education.

Our aim is to provide a high-quality service for the children and young people through innovative practice working in partnership with partners, providers and families. We will work together to achieve the best educational and social-emotional outcomes for our children and young people.

The “voice” of each child and young person and their family are central to the work that we do. We ensure that they are informed and empowered to make appropriate choices. The holistic approach is of paramount significance and essential to the development of young people as they prepare for adult life.

The Deaf Centre at Darrick Wood, the Secondary Base, supports D/deaf children and young people aged 11-18 years who have an EHC Plan and a recommendation for specialist Secondary School placement. A specialist placement requires an EHCP. The young person is on roll at the mainstream school.

Specialist Placement Criteria

- A permanent severe or profound hearing loss, or a deteriorating loss which needs to be monitored closely.
- A language delay caused by a significant hearing loss, which requires specialist targeted teaching and support to develop language and communication skills.

The Team has an Open Door policy for general advice for parents and professionals on hearing loss.

Deaf Centre / School Education offer:

- A holistic approach to your child's education.
- Daily access to a Qualified Teacher of the Deaf.
- A place on role at Darrick Wood School and an allocated form group.
- Support in mainstream lessons. Either a Teacher of the Deaf or a Deaf Communicator will provide communication support and/or notetaking with language modification where necessary.
- Each pupil's timetable will reflect their personal needs and ability to access mainstream lessons and learning. They will also have access to small group sessions in the Deaf Centre to support language development (pre/post tutoring) which underpins their subject learning. Some pupils are taught English, Maths or Humanities in the Base. British Sign Language (BSL) lessons, ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support), Healthy Minds (NDCS pastoral programme) and Speech and Language groups are also offered.
- The Deaf Centre team will work in partnership working/liaison with all departments and the subject teachers.
- Specialist Speech and Language Therapists (SaLT) in the Base work 1-1 or in small groups as identified in the EHCP. Targets are shared with all team members and follow-up is provided by a specialist SaLT Deaf Communicator. Feedback from the pupil, the Deaf Centre team, SaLT and mainstream staff is regularly reviewed to ensure progress.



- The Deaf Centre team prepare materials to support pupils in tutorials and the afterschool Homework club is targeted sessions. Progress is tracked.
- We encourage participation in Mainstream and Deaf Centre extra-curricular activities, trips and outings.
- The communication approach is flexible and may change over time. Students at The Deaf Centre may use an auditory/oral approach, lipreading, sign language or a combination.
- A Learning and Inclusion Plan (LIP) is provided with audiological information and recommendations for reasonable adjustments to allow equitable access to the learning environment.
- All D/deaf pupils' needs are regularly assessed, and appropriate exam access arrangements are put in place.
- The Deaf Centre team support all pupils in Preparation for Adulthood. The team liaise with the Post-16 Education establishments, offer pupils support with their application forms, UCAS statements and interview techniques. We also attend careers interviews to support the D/deaf pupils.

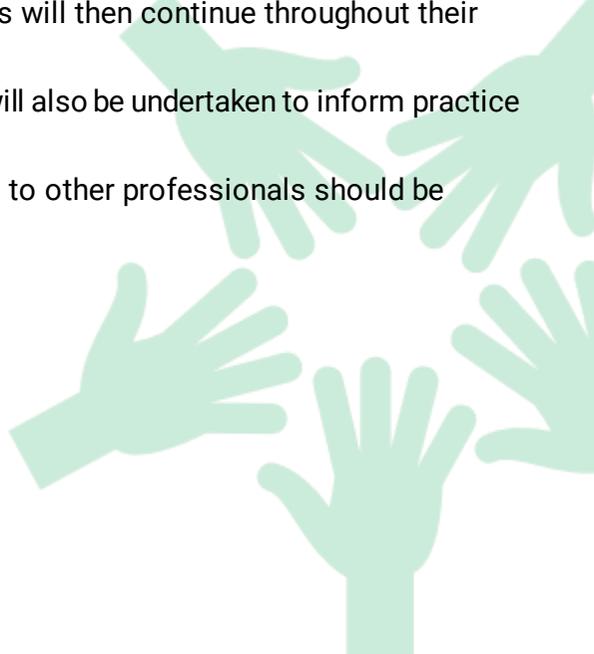
There is a close working relationship between the Deaf Centre, Hearing Team and the Primary Deaf Base at Griffins, as well as local Audiology, tertiary Audiology, Cochlear Implant Centres, Educational Psychologists and the Speech and Language Service.

Audiology/Acoustics:

- Hearing aids and Cochlear Implants are checked regularly and parents/carers are informed of any faults found. The Deaf Centre work closely with the Children and Young People's Audiology Centre (CYPAC) and various Implant Teams. Parents are always encouraged to ensure their child's audiological equipment is in good working order each day as a pupil's audiology and management will impact on their learning. All pupils are offered use of a Radio Aid.
- Teachers of the Deaf will advise and support on managing the classroom Acoustic Environment and using Specialist Audiological Equipment, e.g. Soundfield Systems/ Radio Aids

Assessment:

- As part of our tracking and monitoring of learning and progress, each pupil is individually assessed upon entry to the school by both the mainstream and the Base. This will then continue throughout their time at Darrick Wood.
- Specialist ToD assessments will also be undertaken to inform practice and advice.
- We will advise you if a referral to other professionals should be considered.

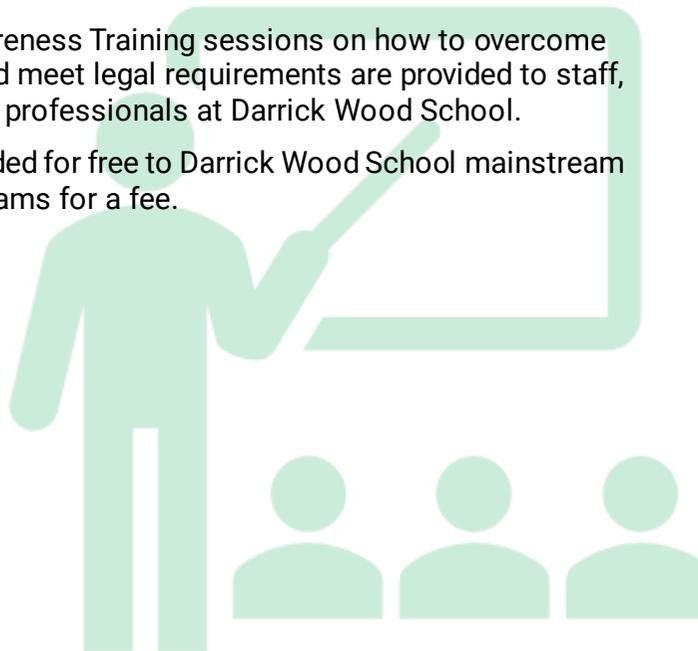


Social and Emotional:

- When pupils enter Secondary school, our aim is to integrate them positively into the mainstream environment.
- In addition to meeting academic needs, we place great emphasis on supporting our pupils' social and emotional welfare. Through our Healthy Minds programme, designed by the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS), we help to develop a pupil's understanding of their emotions and their ability to cope with these whilst establishing their D/deaf identity. This programme builds a pupil's self-esteem and confidence, encouraging resilience.
- We also offer the Emotional Literacy Support programme (ELSA) for D/deaf pupils when appropriate.

Training:

- A variety of Deaf Awareness Training sessions on how to overcome barriers to learning and meet legal requirements are provided to staff, pupils and associated professionals at Darrick Wood School.
- BSL courses are provided for free to Darrick Wood School mainstream staff, with optional exams for a fee.



Contact Details



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