



## Sensory Impairment

Hearing impairment (HI) ranges from mild hearing loss to total deafness.

Visual Impairment (VI) is vision loss that can't be fixed with glasses, contacts, or other methods. They may have complete vision loss (blindness) or partial vision loss. Visual impairments can be caused by eye conditions like amblyopia ("lazy eye") or strabismus (misaligned or crossed eyes), eye or brain injuries, or birth defects.

Now and again a teacher working for the local authority's HI or VI service tests students with HI/ VI to determine whether their hearing with or without a hearing aid or visual falls within normal limits. The school subsequently receives support and advice on how the child can access the curriculum.

## Quality First Strategies

- Make sure that hearing aid users are wearing their hearing aids or those with visual impairments where glasses if they require them
- Ask students where they would like to sit to optimise communication, making sure they are near the teacher and away from heavy traffic areas.
- Always face students and get their attention before speaking.
- Use facial expressions, gestures and other body language to communicate.
- Repeat new vocabulary in different contexts to reinforce your message.
- Use visual aids
- Provide information about assignments, deadlines, exam dates etc in writing.
- Write all homework assignments and class instructions on the whiteboard, making sure that anything you write can be easily read, and refrain from talking while you are writing.
- Reduce background noise: sounds normally ignored by hearing individuals are amplified by a hearing aid and interfere with communication.
- Look at how information is presented to the child e.g. glare, colour, font size