

Reasonable adjustments for including children and young people (CYP) with a one sided hearing loss

There is evidence to suggest that CYP with a one sided hearing loss under-achieve unless schools are proactive in providing a fully inclusive environment.

The table below suggests things which can be done to support successful inclusion and gives an opportunity for schools to assess how well these reasonable adjustments are being made.

Reasonable adjustments for including CYP with a one sided hearing loss			Dates when achieved and reassessed
1	Find out and record/remember which ear is the good ear.	So strategies can be applied to the correct ear!	
2	Position the CYP with a one sided hearing loss with their good ear towards whoever is speaking.	In the classroom, the CYP should be seated towards the front and to one side with their good ear towards their table partner and the rest of the class.	
3	Position the CYP with a one sided hearing loss close to whoever is speaking.	The further away they are the less they are likely to hear, especially if it is noisy.	
4	During group activities, make sure the CYP with a one sided hearing loss is positioned where they can hear the other people in the group.	In noisy conditions CYP with a one sided loss will struggle to hear, focus and learn. Check work is understood by asking what they need to do rather than asking if they have understood.	
5	Keep background noise to a minimum.	Unnecessary background noise prevents all CYP from hearing, concentrating and learning – particularly those with any level of hearing loss.	
6	When calling a CYP with a one sided hearing loss say where you are calling from.	This is because we locate sounds by using two good ears and making a decision to turn to the side where the sound is nearest and loudest. For a CYP with a one sided loss, this will always be to their better side.	
7	Face the CYP with a one sided hearing loss, stand still and get eye contact.	CYP need to know someone is talking so they can actively listen and concentrate. If they do not know someone is talking they will not know to listen.	
8	Check all news and information has been heard and understood eg from assembly, PA systems, messages etc.	Often CYP with a one sided hearing loss get things wrong, don't attend meetings, know of room changes, turn up with the wrong equipment and don't get involved with extracurricular activities etc. Write messages on the board and draw everyone's attention to it.	
9	Write all homework on the board well before the end of the lesson.	CYP with a one sided hearing loss can get confused about homework if it is presented verbally at the end of the lesson while people are packing away books and equipment. This can be because it is too noisy and CYP are too busy to follow or in some cases be aware of verbal instructions.	
10	Care must be taken when crossing roads and riding bikes.	This is because it is difficult to assess where sounds are coming from as described above. CYP with a one sided hearing loss must be taught specifically how to cross roads and manage themselves around traffic.	