

# PEARCEDALE DEAF FACILITY POLICY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office

### Rationale:

The Pearcedale Deaf Facility has been operating since 1995 to provide children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) with the best possible access to an inclusive mainstream education. The Deaf Facility provides experienced, trained Teachers of the Deaf (TOD) who work closely with mainstream teachers to support Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. The TODs identify the individual needs of students and modify the curriculum accordingly.

### Aim:

The role of the Facility is to provide DHH students with access to the Victorian Curriculum while targeting their individual learning needs so that they can achieve positive learning outcomes and independence within an inclusive setting. Facility students have the advantages of being integrated into a mainstream environment surrounded by the language and curriculum of their hearing peers, as well as accessing highly individual learning support by specialist teachers of the deaf, educational support staff, **educational interpreters** and **speech pathologists** as required.

### Facility Program Overview:

- Teachers of the Deaf and or Educational Support Staff ensure that all DHH students are connected to the teacher's transmitter at the beginning of the day.
- A regular Ling 7 sound check is undertaken during the week to ensure students have access to all of the speech sounds.
- Students are integrated into the mainstream classroom as much as possible to allow them to be immersed in the spoken language of their hearing peers. Students leave class to attend special support sessions designed to address their individual educational and social/emotional needs to complement their regular classroom programs.
- Individual Education Plans (IEP) are developed as a result of a series of formal and informal assessments through regular liaison with parents, classroom teachers, TODs, ES staff and Allied Health Professionals as required. Every IEP contains Specific Measurable Achievable Time-bound (SMART) goals, which are used to measure each student's progress. These IEP goals are constantly monitored by the TOD and classroom teacher to ensure positive learning outcomes are achieved.
- Classroom Teachers and Teachers of the Deaf work closely together and have

high expectations for all DHH students to produce positive learning outcomes.

- Parental involvement and support are highly valued and actively encouraged.
- We work closely with Melbourne University, the Cochlear Implant Clinic and Hearing Australia to implement best practice in Deaf Education through active participation in clinical research and educational/technological initiatives.
- Additional services are provided by Allied Health Professionals including; Speech Pathologist, Clinicians from Hearing Australia and the Cochlear Implant Clinic.

### **Eligibility:**

The law in Victoria states that children must attend school from the age of 6. To enrol in government school, a child must turn 5 before 30 April of the year they start school. Children who have a **permanent** bilateral sensorineural or permanent conductive hearing loss, which is moderate or greater in severity (40dB), are eligible to enroll.

Please follow the enrolment process as outlined on our website.

### **Appealing enrolment decisions**

Parents and carers are able to appeal against a school's decision not to provide a placement. This can occur in relation to placements at Year 7, or placements at other year levels. In the first instance, parents or carers should lodge a written appeal with the school at which the student has been unsuccessful in gaining a placement. If this appeal is unsuccessful and parents or carers are not satisfied that their appeal has been adequately considered, they are able to escalate the appeal to the relevant regional director. For mainstream schools, appeals to the regional director are considered using the criteria in the Placement Policy.

Please contact the school office (59786250) or email [pearcedale.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:pearcedale.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) for more information

### **Review and feedback**

We recognise that our school's practices must be regularly reviewed and updated in partnership with our families and local communities. We encourage you to contact the school office with any feedback, concerns or suggestions

### **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Policy last reviewed	Feb 2022
Approved by	Principal and School Council

Next Scheduled review date	2025
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