

Unilateral Hearing Loss

Advice for staff

A hearing loss that affects one ear only is known as a unilateral or monaural hearing loss. Children are fitted with a hearing aid if they are found to gain benefit from one.

A child with a monaural hearing loss may have difficulty:

- locating the source of sound or the speaker especially in background noise
- listening in noisy conditions e.g. children talking, heaters, projectors, dining halls or changing rooms
- hearing over distance and therefore may be slow to respond
- coping in social situations due to background noise

Staff working with the child need to adopt deaf friendly teaching strategies:

- Ensure attending before you talk
- Seat towards the front of the classroom. The better ear will need to be turned towards the source of sound
- Ensure a good view of the speaker
- Repeat or paraphrase other children's contributions in a class discussion
- Use a live speaker rather than tape
- Consideration should be given to delivery of exams and tests to ensure instructions are accessible and visible. Any access arrangements should be normal way of working