What is Deaf Awareness?
Teacher Information Sheet

Deaf Awareness Week is about promoting the positive aspects of deafness, to bring about social inclusion and raise awareness.

Deaf Awareness Week is unique since many different organisations participate and support, such as Action on Hearing Loss, UK Council on Deafness, British Deaf Association and the National Children’s Deaf Society, to name but a few.

For 2016, the theme is ‘Connect and Communicate’. Deaf Awareness Week aims to target as wide an audience as possible in order to bring about maximum impact for deaf people. ‘Connect and Communicate’ aims to highlight the positive outcomes of being deaf aware and to help improve the understanding of all types of deafness together with the communication methods that can be used.

The National Deaf Children’s Society uses the term ‘deaf’ to refer to all levels of hearing loss.

Useful Statistics (from Deaf Council, 2016)

- 1 in 6 people in the UK are affected by hearing loss; 6.5 million of these are aged 60 and over and 3.7 million are of working age.

- Around 2 million people in the UK have hearing aids.

- About 800,000 are severely or profoundly deaf adults and children who face communication barriers.

- Out of every 10,000 people, ten will be extremely deaf and 100 will be partially deaf.