

Longwill Primary Special School for Deaf Children

Currently, Longwill is a 65 place funded, specialist School for Deaf children, aged from 2-11 years old. Our children travel from across the West Midlands region and beyond.

The Learning Environment

- Longwill is a sign-bilingual, bi-cultural learning environment, which strives to support and develop the communication needs of all children within the school
- We educate our pupils as independent free thinkers, ready for 21st century life, capable of embracing the technology of tomorrow, who are adaptable, self-reliant, resourceful and tolerant of change and who can contribute to the wider community.
- Pupils are taught within small groups by Teachers of the Deaf.
- 9 Deaf staff act as positive cultural and linguistic role models, teaching BSL and supporting learning in the classroom.
- Both languages (English and BSL) are equally valued and promoted throughout the school
- The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) are woven into the curriculum to ensure the emotional wellbeing of all pupils
- Our lead Learning Mentor, coordinates the specialist support that some of our more vulnerable children need
- We teach English through a variety of means; BSL, Sign Supported English, Signed English and orally
- We employ a digital team to ensure that Longwill continues to lead the way in using digital media to enhance Deaf education
- We work closely with Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Audiologists and a range of professionals to support positive outcomes for Deaf children

Initiatives

- The school is part of the Birmingham Special Schools Co-operative Trust. It has an outward facing approach and recognises the benefits of strong partnership working
- We aim for all children to leave Longwill with a Level 1 certificate in BSL
- We run evening BSL classes for the general public
- Weekly parental BSL groups
- All Teachers of the Deaf engage in action research and collaborate closely with universities in developing and improving ways to teach Deaf pupils
- 'Visual Phonics by Hand'- was developed at Longwill to support phonic skills for Deaf pupils, who are visual learners
- The school holds the Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award (UNCRC) and is proud of our achievement in creating a school where pupil voice is strong and pupils are confident contributors to making the world a better place

Please visit through our website www.longwill.bham.sch.uk

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