

58087 Deaf Pupils and Sign Language/Communication Support

Deaf Pupils (Numbers)

The total number of pupils identified as deaf in your schools, by academic year.

Date	Recorded as deaf/blind	Recorded as hearing impaired	Total
Sept 2019	5	222	227
Sept 2020	6	275	281
Sept 2021	6	287	293
Sept 2022	5	305	310
Sept 2023	5	301	306
Sept 2024	2	318	320

Interpreter / Communication Support Worker Provision

The number of deaf pupils formally provided with sign language interpreters or Communication Support Workers (CSW), by academic year.

The role of Communication Support Worker within the Deaf Support Team was created and recruited to for the first time in January 2024. Prior to this who required communication support were supported by a range of staff with BSL skills ranging from Pupil Support Assistants, Nursery Nurses, Communication Support Workers (outsourced) and Interpreters (outsourced).

The below relates to any children receiving any of the above support. Some support was provided by Nursery Nurses to groups of children in Specialist Provision (in addition to the support provided directly by their schools, which is not included here). Some support was provided short term as part of assessing pupils' language and communication needs.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
No. of pupils provided with Interpretation/Communication Support	10	11	10	10	8	10	12

Requests for Support

The number of requests made by parents/carers for sign language interpreter or Communication Support Worker support, and how many were:

- Granted in full
- Granted in part
- Refused and with reasons for refusal, if recorded.

There is no formal process for requests for support for Interpreter or Communication Support Worker. Each child referred to the Deaf Support Team is allocated a Teacher of the Deaf. They will work with parents, schools and partners to identify the needs of individual children

using the GIRFEC process and the Deaf Support Team Leader will allocate resources as appropriate to meet their needs.

Appeals / Complaints

The number of appeals or complaints made against your decisions regarding sign language /communication support in education, and the outcomes of those appeals/complaints.

One formal complaint was made and was upheld.

Spend on Support

The total annual spend on sign language interpreting and communication support services in education, broken down by financial year.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
£63,321.59	£119,265.86	£123,205.87	£61,627.17	£73,362.54	£202,127.27

Policy & Guidance

Copies of any policies, guidance, or criteria used by the authority to decide on providing communication support such as sign language interpreter and Communication Support Worker for deaf pupils, including any references to British Sign Language Act 2022.

Please see guidance document attached. We have redacted personal information, such as email addresses and telephone numbers.

Teachers of the Deaf

The number of Teachers of the Deaf (ToD) employed by your authority and how many hold the mandatory qualification for Teachers of the Deaf.

8 ToD are employed by the City of Edinburgh Council, with 5 holding the mandatory qualification. 1 teacher has started undertaking the qualification, and 2 are recently employed and will undertake the qualification in January 2026.