

# MANAGING DIVIDED VISUAL ATTENTION

Pupils with hearing difficulties often rely on clues from lip reading and need to look at whoever is speaking as well as listening in order to understand. It is impossible therefore, for them to look at other things at the same time. These pupils are likely, for example, to find it difficult to watch a speaker and pay attention to text at the same time. The following points will help:

- point clearly to visual material while it is being discussed.
- allow enough time for a deaf pupil to look, after you have finished speaking.
- allow time to watch video/read instructions before commenting on them.
- allow pupils time to absorb information before expecting a response.
- be aware that there may be difficulties when there is a group discussion of written text. The pupil may be able to locate and watch speakers at the same time as looking at text.
- be aware with older pupils that listening, watching and taking notes at the same time is impossible. Some pupils will need a note taker to get over this problem. If there is difficulty, you can help by asking other pupils in the class to share their notes or take a photocopy of what they write down.
- be aware that a pupil who uses sign language will need to look at the TA or teacher providing sign support/sign interpretation in order to access information about what you are saying. Allow enough time for pupils to look at any equipment or visual aids that you are referring to before you move on.
- try to use audio visual material which have subtitles or make a written summary of the content available ahead of sessions where you are going to use material in this format. Allow pupils to have access to the material after the lesson to go through it again.



**Hearing Support Service Tel :208248**