



# The Secondary Hub for Learners with Hearing Impairment at Jack Hunt School

## What is a Hub?

Peterborough City Council and a number of primary, secondary and special schools are working together to create a network of specialist hubs in schools across the city. These Hubs are developing to become 'centres of expertise' to help improve the support for all children with special educational needs and disabilities in all schools in the Peterborough area. The primary focus of a Hub is to equip themselves and other schools to support students with specific SEND. Some of these Hubs have a limited number of places for students.

You can find out more about the network of Hubs at

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/special-educational-needs/local-offer/early-years-education-and-training/education/>

**Peterborough Specialist Hub Network**

The Peterborough Secondary Hub for students with Hearing Impairment is based at Jack Hunt School. The Hub caters for a small number of students who – as a result of their deafness or hearing impairment – experience a significant delay in the development of spoken and written language. By supporting students in a small environment and working on their individual specific needs, the Hub aims to integrate the students within the school as much as possible. Hub professionals support the students to access lessons and extracurricular activities.

For further information, please see the Peterborough Local Offer:

[www.peterborough.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/localoffer) or contact

Sarah Cooper, SENCO and Hub Manager

([scooper@jackhunt.net](mailto:scooper@jackhunt.net) or 01733 263526)



## What do the Hubs offer to help?

For students, the Hub offers bespoke provision based on individual need. Each student has a mainstream timetable, with additional sessions to work on a 1:1 basis with Teaching Assistants or a peripatetic Teacher of the Deaf. These sessions are designed to support a learner's language development, so that they are better equipped to study independently. Over time, the expectation is that students will become increasingly independent and may transition out of the Hub into the school.

There are a number of staff members based in the Hub, including the Hub Lead and Deaf Aware Teaching Assistants. All staff have a minimum of a Level 2 qualification in British Sign Language, but work in a holistic way to meet individual learner need, using speech, signed-supported English and written word to support language development. Learners also have access to Speech and Listening sessions to enable their spoken English to develop.

Jack Hunt School has a staggered lunch system, with students in different school houses having lunch and tutor group at different times. Hub staff are always on duty at break and lunch times, and students can choose to either spend this time in the Hub or join their friends elsewhere in the school. Staff supervise students going to the canteen and the learners have different activities clubs they can join to spend time with others.

## What difference does the Hub make?

One learner joined the school in 2013. She had a significant language delay and communicated using her cochlear implants and speech. Her confidence was low and she was behind her peers in her studies. This same learner has now reached Year 11 and is studying 9 GCSE subjects. She is no longer supported within the Hub, although she has support through her EHCP within the mainstream provision. Her speech, language, academic studies and confidence have all significantly improved and we are enormously proud of her hard work and independence skills.

## Improving support across Peterborough

The Hub has a key role in modelling and assisting schools across Peterborough to improve their support for students with Hearing Impairment. It does this by offering:

- Drop-in sessions for teachers;
- Modelling of approaches and resources, which can be used across whole schools to build inclusive culture and practice;
- Training on Deafness, language modification and differentiation – often delivered by the learners themselves – for a range of teaching and support staff and staff from other schools.

## How do I get a place at the Hub?

Placements are via the SEND Panel. Students in the Hub must have a diagnosis of severe/profound hearing impairment and an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan to be considered for a place in the HI Hub.

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