

Current Support for Students with Hearing Loss

Primary-level

For primary-level children with moderate to severe hearing loss, parents have the option to enrol them in either one of two SPED schools. These schools offer students with hearing loss access to the national curriculum, and a more customised curriculum for students with hearing loss with more severe needs, e.g. those with intellectual disability.

The SPED schools cater to students who use oral language or signing for communication. The Canossian School (CS) adopts the Oral approach, which focuses on developing the skills of speaking and listening for communication and instruction, while the Lighthouse School (LHS) adopts the Signing approach where signing is a primary method of communication and instruction.

Secondary-level

Upon graduation from the SPED schools, students with hearing loss who pass their PSLE have the option of enrolling in one of four designated mainstream secondary schools. Outram Secondary School and St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School cater to students that adopt the Oral approach, while Balestier Hill Secondary School and Boon Lay Secondary School currently cater to students that adopt the Signing approach.

Other Mainstream Primary and Secondary Schools

Students who have mild hearing loss can also enrol in other mainstream primary and secondary schools. Many of them are fitted with cochlear implants and use hearing devices. They are supported largely by general provisions, such as specialised support by Allied Educators (Learning and Behavioural Support) and teachers trained in Special Needs, which cater to students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in mainstream schools. Students with mild hearing loss are also supported by MOE-funded school-based itinerant educational support services by SADeaf, such as training services for students and teachers in the use of Assistive Technology (AT), and assessment services for national exam access arrangements.

Tertiary-level

Support is available to deaf students in Institutes of Higher Learning through the SEN Support Offices which were set up in 2014 to provide one-stop support for students with special educational needs, such as providing appropriate course guidance, access arrangements for tests and examinations, and course modifications where possible. Arrangements can also be made for the purchase education-related AT devices and support services (e.g. signing interpretation).