

# PARENTS SAY

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## CENTRE OF DEAF EDUCATION, BRIGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

DEAF STUDENT ICT EXECUTIVE TEACHING  
PEERS ABOUT NEW TECHNOLOGY



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# CENTRE OF DEAF EDUCATION, BRIGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are the southern Centre of Deaf Education (CDE) located within Brighton Primary School, a public government school with new and modern building facilities recently upgraded in 2021.

Any child in South Australia, who has been diagnosed with a moderate bilateral hearing loss can put in a Special Options application to attend our Centre of Deaf Education. This Special Options application can be completed with the support and guidance of a Special Educator: Hearing officer, or the support of your child's kindergarten/current school.

Brighton Primary School has 740 students with 27 classes, 15 students are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. We have a diversity of deafness and hearing loss in our CDE and our students use assistive devices such as, single and double cochlear implants, hearing aids (HA), children with both a cochlear and a hearing aid or no devices at all. Some of our CDE students are oral and use speech only, other students use Auslan only and many students use speech and sign languages. We take pride that all of our CDE students are effective communicators in the mode that best suits the child and their family! We have 6 'CDE' classes which have a mainstream classroom teacher, working in collaboration with a Teacher of the Deaf and Bilingual Student Support Officers (BSSO/Auslan skills). All students at Brighton Primary School learn Auslan as their Language Other Than English (LOTE). Our Deaf/Hard of Hearing students are completely immersed and included within the mainstream settings of the school and attend all school events. Brighton Primary School is an inclusive educational setting where each

and every student has the opportunity to learn together in a dynamic and stimulating environment.

Our Centre of Deaf Education is managed by the CDE Assistant Principal. The Assistant Principal manages all CDE staff, students and the day to day running of the CDE. To support the education of our 15 Deaf/Hard of Hearing students enrolled this year, we employ 5 Teachers of the Deaf, 10 Bilingual Student Support Officers (BSSOs). Four of our BSSOs are Deaf or Hard of Hearing themselves and are significant Deaf role models, two of our hearing BSSOs are Children of Deaf Adults (CODAs). Our staffing is dependent on enrolments, but as our numbers grow, we are hoping to employ a Teacher of the Deaf, who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing. All of our CDE staff have Auslan skills and we communicate in the mode most suited to the individual student. Our Teachers of the Deaf have completed their Master's degree of Special Education (Deaf/Hard of Hearing), so their understanding and pedagogy when teaching children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing is specialised and specific to deafness and hearing loss.

Our Centre of Deaf Education has a Department of Education funding model where a Deaf/Hard of Hearing student is allocated 1 day Teacher of the Deaf support and BSSO support. We will often place three or four Deaf/Hard of Hearing students in one class to provide a full time Teacher of the Deaf, and full time BSSO support. Our CDE classes also have a mainstream classroom teacher and our CDE students work with their teachers and hearing peers in the same classroom. Mainstream teachers and Teachers of the Deaf work together collaboratively with all their planning, programming and teaching and then make necessary adjustments to differentiate the curriculum to meet the needs of their Deaf/Hard of Hearing students. Our mainstream staff have regular professional development around deaf education and are trained in using our Soundfield Systems and FM systems.

We have weekly 'Stretch and Grow' sessions for all Deaf/Hard of Hearing students, where our CDE students come together to connect and learn with their deaf peers. There is a focus using the IOWA Core Curriculum for Deaf Hard of Hearing students, where our students learn to be self-advocates, look after their own assistive devices and develop independence



*Time for some fun: CDE students and BSSO during Stretch & Grow session*



when learning. We have intervention sessions supporting students with the literacy (including phonological awareness). We also use evidence based programs, Colourful Semantics and Fingerspelling our Way to Reading as specific intervention for Deaf/HoH students, targeting literacy to improve outcomes for our Deaf/Hard of Hearing children.

Many of our CDE students are in Student Leadership roles within the school, including Student Executives, ICT, SRC and peer mentoring roles. We make connections with other CDE schools across Adelaide – attending combined events and connecting our CDE students to the Deaf community across Adelaide.

In addition to normal everyday school activities we have extracurricular events and activities lead by CDE staff and students, inclusive to all students within our school community. These include Signing Choir, Deaf Sports club and Auslan Drama club available to all students. We have Auslan classes for staff to improve their Auslan skills and fortnightly Auslan classes for parents, families and friends. We celebrate and acknowledge Hearing Awareness Week and National Week of Deaf People. We welcome our Deaf community to give valuable feedback and advice to our CDE.

The parents of our CDE students are invited to planned meetings to discuss their child's learning goals and help develop goals within their child's OnePlan. These are individualised and specific to targeted learning outcomes. We encourage families to participate and contribute to their child's schooling, as they are an integral part of our team.



*CDE students working on their phonologic awareness*



*Deaf/Hard of Hearing students working with Teachers of the Deaf*

Hearing Australia and the Cochlear Team have onsite visits to check in on students' HA/Cochlear implants. Private service providers are permitted to come onsite to deliver therapies required (speech, OT, physio etc) to reduce student fatigue after a school day.

We are NOT to be considered an Auslan only Centre of Deaf Education. Our CDE classes are bilingual, where spoken language and Auslan are used together to create a strong and engaging learning environment for all students. We work closely and diligently with families to deliver a highly supported differentiated education program in the mode of communication best suited to the family and the Deaf/Hard of Hearing child.

<https://www.brightonps.sa.edu.au/index.php/centre-for-deaf-education/>

**CATHARINE CARLIN, CDE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
BRIGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**