

## **Longwill Primary Special School for Deaf Children**

Longwill is currently a 65 place Special School for profoundly D/deaf children aged from 2-11 years old who come from across the West Midlands Region and beyond.

### **The Learning Environment**

- Longwill is a sign-bilingual, bi-cultural learning environment, which strives to support and develop the communication needs and abilities of its members so that the pupils are equipped to function effectively within both the Hearing and the D/deaf world.
- We educate our pupils as independent free thinkers, ready for 21st century life, capable of embracing the technology of tomorrow, who are adaptable, self-reliant, resourceful and tolerant of change and who can contribute to the wider community.
- Pupils are taught within small groups by Teachers of the D/deaf.
- 9 D/deaf staff act as positive cultural and linguistic role models, teaching BSL and supporting learning in the classroom. Both languages (English and BSL) are equally valued and promoted.
- The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) are woven into the curriculum to ensure the emotional wellbeing of all pupils. We have some Learning Mentors on our staff.
- We teach English through a variety of means, using BSL, Sign Supported English, Signed English, as well as communicating orally where appropriate.
- We employ a digital team to ensure that Longwill continues to lead the way in using digital media to enhance D/deaf education.
- We work closely with Speech and Language Therapists, our Educational Audiologist and a range of professionals to support positive outcomes for D/deaf children.

### **Initiatives**

- The school is part of the Birmingham Special Schools Co-operative Trust. It has an outward facing approach and recognises the benefits of strong partnership working.
- We intend to teach BSL courses in school and encourage a wider community of schools to know BSL.
- All Teachers of the D/deaf engage in Action Research and collaborate closely with universities in developing and improving ways to teach D/deaf pupils.
- Longwill teaches Thinking and Learning skills especially through the use of Building Learning Power.
- 'Visual Phonics by Hand'- was developed at Longwill to support phonic skills for D/deaf pupils, who are visual learners.
- The school holds the Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award (UNCRC) and is proud of our achievement in creating a school where pupil voice is strong and pupils are confident contributors to making the world a better place.

**Please visit through our website** [www.longwill.bham.sch.uk](http://www.longwill.bham.sch.uk)

Headteacher- Mrs Alison Carter

Longwill School, Bell Hill, Northfield, Birmingham B31 1LD

Email – [a.carter@longwill.bham.sch.uk](mailto:a.carter@longwill.bham.sch.uk)

Telephone – 0121 475 3923