



NZSL@School Frequently Asked Questions for Schools

What is NZSL@School and what is its purpose?

The purpose of the NZSL@School is to support schools so that deaf children, who need New Zealand Sign Language achieve educationally and socially at the same level as their hearing peers. NZSL@School provides a range of support to schools and parents/whānau, in addition to any other special education support deaf students receive, to help schools meet the learning, communication and cultural needs of deaf students who use NZSL.

NZSL@School is a new initiative (2014) that will grow and change to reflect the needs of deaf students, their parents/whānau and schools. Schools will be consulted and kept up-to-date on any changes to NZSL@School.

Who provides NZSL@School support to schools?

The Ministry of Education funds NZSL@School. Kelston and Van Asch Deaf Education Centres provide NZSL@School support and services to schools, students and their parent/whānau.

Who can access this service?

To access NZSL@School, a deaf student will:

- have a verified diagnosis of hearing impairment
- use NZSL as their face to face language
- be enrolled in a regular school, kura kaupapa, Maori medium school, or a special education school. Children enrolled at a Deaf Education Centre are not able to access NZSL@School.

How many deaf students does NZSL@School cater for?

There are currently 57 students participating in the project. NZSL@School will support approximately 80 students by 2016 and 100 by 2017.

What support does NZSL@School provide?

NZSL@School support includes:

- NZSL tuition for the deaf student (if required), parents/caregivers, family/whānau, school staff and other students in the class/school.
- Specialist advice from Deaf Education professionals on bi-lingual (NZSL-English/Te Reo) teaching strategies that support deaf children to participate fully in the life of a school.
- In-service training to teacher's aides and teachers on strategies for working with deaf students who use NZSL.

- Teacher's aide and/or interpreter funding to help student's access classroom teaching and learning with others and to help them participate fully in all school activities through NZSL.

How and when can a school access NZSL@School?

If a deaf student is enrolling or enrolled at your school and the student's team (including the parents) believes the student needs to access NZSL@School, the team can submit an NZSL@School Application form.

The Deaf Education Centre's NZSL@School Committee is responsible for considering NZSL@School applications. An application can be made at any time during a school year and at any stage of a student's schooling. NB: If a child is under 5yrs old, and transitioning to school, a school should apply for NZSL@School 4-5 months before they start school.

Where do I obtain further information?

For full information about NZSL@School talk to your deaf education lead worker or refer to NZSL@School Guidelines for Schools and Deaf Education Professionals. These are available at [Kelston Deaf Education Centre](#) or contact nzslschool@kdec.school.nz or [van Asch Deaf Education Centre](#) or nzslschool@vanasch.school.nz

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