

Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) Policy - February 2026

Children and young people with a diagnosis of Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) do not come onto the active caseload of the Sensory Needs Service (SNS) and are not routinely supported by a Teacher of the Deaf (ToD).

Educational establishments (excluding independent schools) may, however, make a Front Door referral to the SNS solely for the purpose of trialling assistive listening equipment for a period of 6 weeks.

Referral Requirements

- The referral must include a written diagnostic report confirming APD. No equipment will be loaned without this documentation.
- Schools must explain clearly to parents and carers that:
 - This referral does not provide ongoing SNS support, and
 - It is only to enable a time-limited equipment trial.

Consent Process

Once the referral is received:

- The SNS will send a parental consent form.
- This consent is only for:
 - Contacting the school,
 - Discussing the equipment trial.
- It is not consent for ongoing involvement from the Sensory Needs Service.

Equipment Trial Arrangement

If the school, parent/carers, and young person agree:

- Equipment will be loaned to the school.
- The school must sign a Loan Agreement Form.
- There may be a waiting list if equipment is currently in use by another pupil.

At the start of the trial:

- A Teacher of the Deaf will visit the school with the equipment.
- They will meet with key staff and the young person.
- Training will be provided on how to use and maintain the equipment.

- Questionnaires will be given to staff, parent/carer and the young person to complete:
 - Before the trial begins
 - At the end of the trial
- The questionnaires are provided to help the student, staff, and parents/carers reflect objectively on the impact of using the equipment. They are intended to be used solely as a comparison tool and not for any other purpose.

End of Trial and Next Steps

At the end of the agreed trial period:

- SNS staff will collect the equipment.
- Questionnaire responses will be reviewed with the young person and school staff.
- If the trial shows that the equipment is beneficial for learning access, responsibility for purchasing the equipment falls to the school. The Sensory Needs Service will not be able to offer any further equipment on a long-term basis.
- SNS involvement will then cease, and the child will be discharged from the Service.

Responsibilities of Schools

It is essential that school staff clearly communicate this policy to parents and carers, including:

- The limited nature of SNS involvement,
- The expectation that schools fund equipment if deemed beneficial,
- The temporary nature of the trial.