



Why BSL families choose an oral learning environment.

Hi, I am mum to Romeo who joined Mary Hare Primary in Year 5. Romeo was previously at a mainstream primary school with a hearing impaired unit attached. Romeo was falling behind with his learning and was not progressing in the way that I would expect with his peers.

I did not feel he was being challenged enough, receiving very little homework and not having as many opportunities as his hearing peers. I also wanted him to have more deaf peers to interact with. I wanted him to thrive emotionally and intellectually in his school environment.

Describe your experience of going through the tribunal process in order to secure placement at Mary Hare Primary?

Mary Hare Primary School helped a lot with Romeo's application. They helped me write letters and informed me of the process from the start to end.

They have supported me along the way. They informed me of the legal process and what I needed to do within a timeframe. I felt positive and much more confident with their help and support too. They also supported me with the working document for the EHCP.

KEY FACTS

Name: Romeo

- Current Year 5
- Started at Mary Hare Primary in 2020
- First language BSL
- Bilateral cochlear implants
- Profound hearing loss



My advice to give to other families going through a similar experience is, collect the evidence for your reasons why your child should be going to Mary Hare Primary School.



What support did you receive from professionals and the school?

Romeo went to the Burwood Assessment Centre for some independent assessments. They also supported me with information for the EHCP.

What was the outcome of the tribunal and how did you feel?

We won the tribunal. This was a positive outcome and a very quick decision at the tribunal court. I was very happy with the decision as I felt it was the right decision for Romeo.

Why did you want your son to move from a BSL to an oral environment?

Because in the future, after he leaves education, Romeo will have greater success in the hearing dominated world and his communication skills will help him. It will help him to build his confidence to communicate with his hearing peers.

What changes have you noticed in your son since starting at Mary Hare?

His English language has improved as have his communication skills, lip reading, speaking and listening. His reading and maths are improving as has his confidence when speaking to hearing people. He has started to learn to work independently too.

What advice would you give other families going through a similar experience?

My advice to give to other families going through a similar experience is collect the evidence for your reasons why your child should be going to Mary Hare Primary School.

It would be useful to have the assessments and other independent reports. Also, prepare any questions that might be asked at the tribunal court.



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Securing the future of deaf children and young people