

# **ACOUSTICS IN THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

A dissertation submitted in part fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

**MASTERS DEGREE IN AUDIOLOGY**

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**ABSTRACT**

ACOUSTICS IN THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

(A small-scale study into the acoustic environment in a Primary School)

by Carol Maudsley

This study relates to standard provision and specialist provision of classrooms with acoustic adaptations for both the normal hearing and hearing impaired child. It pulls together traditional and current thinking of acceptable provision in terms of Background Noise Levels and Reverberation Times, including more recent government guidance. The study demonstrates that even specialist and adapted provision fall short of the established standards. The results are presented objectively in histogram and graph form from the actual measurements and subjectively in an analysis of individual interviews with staff and pupils. High levels of awareness of what is actually needed are demonstrated by both groups. It is deduced that specialist provision is inadequate for the hearing impaired child and non adapted provision is even worse. The conclusion is that although the acoustic adaptations have come somewhat to address the acoustics in the learning environment much still needs to be accomplished to ensure good access to the teaching and learning environment for the hearing impaired pupils.