

Policy title	Ear Defenders Protocol
Written by	Jen Poulter, Inclusion Coordinator
Policy owner	The Baird Primary Academy

1. Purpose/Aims

At The Baird we provide additional support and a range of interventions to support our pupils' learning and enable them to demonstrate pro-social and pro-learning behaviours and make improved progress. We recognise that all pupils learn in different ways and that, on occasions, some pupils require additional support to enable them to act in a pro-social and pro-learning way.

We recognise that on occasions pupils will demonstrate a sensitivity to noise. One strategy that we use to support pupils who find noise difficult is the use of ear defenders.

2. Policy Statement

As the prolonged use of ear defenders is not recommended as this can lead to higher sensitivities to noise in the long-term, and to support us in managing this with our pupils, we have a clear protocol that is followed when a child identifies a noise sensitivity, which is as follows:

1. A child identifies that they need ear-defenders.
2. A member of school staff completes the attached Pupil Voice (below) to identify what noises upset them.
3. The child gets issued by Mrs Poulter, the Inclusion Coordinator, with ear-defenders and a social story.
4. A letter (below) is sent to the child's parents along with the NHS advice.
5. Staff monitor the use of ear-defenders and actively try to encourage the child to manage without where possible.
6. The use of ear defenders is reviewed on an annual basis at the end of September, once pupils have had the chance to settle into their new classes.

Ear Defenders – Pupil Voice

Name of Child:

Year and Class:

Date:

Member of staff completing Pupil Voice:

<p>How do you feel about the noise on the playground?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>0 5 10</p> <p>☹ ☺ ☺</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>How do you feel about the noise in the canteen?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>0 5 10</p> <p>☹ ☺ ☺</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>How do you feel about the noise in assembly?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>0 5 10</p> <p>☹ ☺ ☺</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>How do you feel about the noise in PE?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>0 5 10</p> <p>☹ ☺ ☺</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>How do you feel about the noise when the bell goes?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>0 5 10</p> <p>☹ ☺ ☺</p> <p>Comments:</p>

<p>How do you feel about the noise in the toilets?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>0 5 10</p> <p>☹ ☹ ☹</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>How do you feel about the noise when the teacher is teaching the whole class?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>0 5 10</p> <p>☹ ☹ ☹</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>How do you feel about the noise when the class is working?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>0 5 10</p> <p>☹ ☹ ☹</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>How do you feel about the noise when the class is tidying up?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>0 5 10</p> <p>☹ ☹ ☹</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>Are there any other times or places that you find hard because of the noise?</p>	

Ear Defenders – Letter to Parents

To the parent / carer of _____

Re: Ear-Defenders

At The Baird we provide additional support and a range of interventions to support our pupils' learning and enable them to make improved progress. We recognise that all pupils learn in different ways and that, on occasions, some pupils require additional support to enable them to achieve at the same rate as their peers.

After a recent discussion with a member of school staff, your child has identified that they find certain sounds uncomfortable and has completed the attached Pupil Voice, identifying situations where they might find the noise difficult.

In order to support your child, the school will ensure that they have access to ear-defenders in the identified situations. We would be grateful if you would let school staff know if you are aware of any specific sounds are uncomfortable for your child in order to build a more detailed picture of their needs.

The prolonged use of ear-defenders is not recommended as this can lead to higher sensitivity to noise in the long term. Therefore, your child's use of ear defenders will be closely monitored and managed within school with the ultimate goal being to manage without them.

Please see the enclosed advice for further details regarding sound sensitivity.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Welch

Principal / SENCO