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Yarra Valley Grammar's Hearing Unit is an oral/aural program providing supported and inclusive educational opportunities for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Operating since 1972, the Hearing Unit and wider School community have grown together, developing a genuine culture of collaboration and co-operation. Our students demonstrate what can be achieved through teamwork, commitment and enthusiasm.

Our mission is to provide a supported, inclusive educational setting, fostering social, personal and academic development of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The objective of the Hearing Unit is to develop the students' language, listening and academic skills and facilitate full inclusion, so that each student is given the opportunity to reach his or her maximum potential.

Our goal is to foster and promote the oral language of students who are deaf or hard of hearing so that their spoken and written communication skills will assist them to take a productive and meaningful role in the community.

The Hearing Unit provides for students who are deaf or hard of hearing from Early Learning to Year 12.

Deaf and hard of hearing students are integral members of the regular classroom, supported by Teachers of the Deaf at a ratio of 1:4. The needs of each student are met through classroom support, individual withdrawal sessions, auditory training, oral interpreting and language teaching. Programs are flexible and determined by the individual needs of the student, which are continually reviewed and assessed.

As part of the program, the students wear radio frequency aids in the classroom and in environments with competing background noise. Together with this, soundfields are used throughout the School to assist with classroom clarity. The language program is based on age appropriate language experiences, the classroom curriculum and the natural language of the student's peer group. Deaf and hard of hearing students are supported in the development of skills that enable them to acquire and express information, gain an understanding of their community and current events, understand their own needs, take responsibility for their listening and communication and develop social awareness.

Students are encouraged to achieve their full potential academically, emotionally, socially and physically. Full and active participation in the School's curricular and co-curricular program is encouraged and celebrated.

The Teachers of the Deaf perform many roles including:

- s developing listening skills
- s developing social skills
- s language teaching
- s note-taking
- s device management
- s point of contact for parents, enabling regular conversations
- s advocacy for the needs of individual students.



Hearing Unit

Hearing Unit services include:

- s spoken and written language development and enrichment
- s speech pathology
- s ongoing auditory training
- s development of social skills
- s development of thinking skills
- s development of conversation and public speaking skills
- s career counselling, work experience and transition education
- s linking students with Australian Hearing and the Cochlear Implant Clinic for regular audiological advice and service
- s collaborative development of individual education plans
- s parent consultation and regular parent/teacher interviews
- s parent information evenings throughout the year
- s regular Hearing Unit newsletters.

Entry

Hearing Unit students are eligible for enrolment from Early Learning to Year 12.

Application is open to students with a permanent bilateral sensorineural loss of 40 decibels average across the frequencies or greater.

Entry is dependent on the student's ability to access the curriculum using audition and spoken language as their primary mode of communication. They must also be able to access the classroom curriculum with support from the Hearing Unit teacher.

Applicants will be assessed in their classroom at their current school by the Head of the Hearing Unit. Entry to the Hearing Unit is contingent upon this assessment being successful. Consideration is given to the particular needs of the student and the Hearing Unit's ability to meet their academic and social needs.

Further information about Yarra Valley Grammar, including details about the curriculum, co-curricular opportunities and facilities, can be found at www.yvg.vic.edu.au.

For further information about the Hearing Unit, please contact the Head of the Hearing Unit on + 61 3 9262 7700, or email hearingunit@yvg.vic.edu.au.

