

# Deaf Awareness Week

First full week of May



## 1. As the pupils enter

Have the [webpage open](#) and display any focus images. As the pupils enter the hall or classroom say something like: 'Good morning and welcome to today's assembly' - but don't actually speak out loud. Pupils will then only be able to tell what you are saying by lip-reading.

## 2. Introduction

Potential starting questions:

- *Did you know the exact words that I said to you even though I didn't make a sound? How did you know?* [Ask for responses.]
- *If we didn't use lip-reading, is there another form of communication we could use that doesn't rely on making sounds?* [Ask for responses.]
- *Do you know when Deaf Awareness Week is this year?* [Ask for responses.]
- *Visual communication helps everyone, but it is especially important for all deaf learners. Why might that be?*

## 3. Play the video

Duration: 3' 34". Final words: '...Thanks for visiting. Bye! Bye!'

You may wish to stop at relevant points during the video to pose questions and check understanding, or wait until the end.

## 4. After the video - Time to talk

Lead a discussion by asking some or all of the following questions:

- *What is the name of the students' first language that they use at their school?*
- *The co-headteacher said that BSL utilises your hands and your body. But what was the third thing she mentioned?*
- *One student says that BSL is his 'natural language'. What do you think he means when he says that?*
- *Can you recall any of the reasons that Shiv gives for why he's proud to be deaf?*
- *What happened in 2022 that was so important for the deaf community?*
- *Is it only deaf people that can communicate using BSL or can anyone learn it?*



Webpage with video

- *Can you think of ways to support and include people from the deaf community? (Subtitles, learn basic BSL, not talking while facing away, good lighting, quiet places)?*

## 5. Opportunity to sing

If your assembly includes a song this is an opportunity to sing it.

## 6. Closing the assembly

Some reflections on Deaf Awareness Week and raising awareness of BSL.

- *How could we celebrate Deaf Awareness Week at school this year or next year?* [Ask for responses.]
- *How can we make our school more deaf friendly?*