

## **BSL Curriculum Meeting Record**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

#### **Topic: BSL Curriculum Units**

Issues: We discussed the issues in delivering a BSL Curriculum nationally such as the current BSL courses not being designed for schools but adults/further education, shortage of BSL teachers for schools, examinations in languages covering 4 units: speaking, listening, reading and writing, MFL as a foreign language when BSL is British not foreign and not having governmental support.

Units: Looked at examples from examining bodies offering BSL courses, all of which has at least 2 units. Also looked at sign language curriculum examples from America, Australia, New Zealand. Discussed how many and units we should have in this BSL Curriculum, agreed on 3 Units:

1. Productive Skills
2. Receptive Skills
3. TBC e.g. Linguistics, Community, Culture / Offer this as optional or as a sub-unit.

Audience: The BSL Curriculum will be designed for mainstream / all schools with the aim of teaching hearing children BSL. Deaf children will also learn from this BSL Curriculum, as teachers, we will adapt and differentiate where necessary.

Curriculum Design: Discussed the design process and agreed to do this in stages starting from EYFS upwards so that progression is clear from Nursery to Year 11. Agreed that children might start learning BSL at Secondary school as opposed to Primary school, in which case they would start at the Primary end of the curriculum before progressing. Instead of progressing by age, children progress on arrival and ability but, the aim is to teach BSL as early as possible in all schools.

Topics: Discussed the topics we should include in the BSL Curriculum:

- Vocabulary
- Linguistics
- Culture
- Technology
- Services
- BSL media
- Technology to support BSL
- BSL History
- BSL Folklore / Humour /Stories

Note: We need to ensure that we are clear on the separation of 'Deaf' and 'BSL' e.g. Deaf History and BSL History. This is the BSL Curriculum and the focus is on language whereas Deaf Studies is another subject and has its own National Deaf Studies Curriculum where topics such as Deaf History is covered. Naturally there will be some overlaps such as teaching pupils about BSL being the language of the Deaf community.

In the next meeting, we will discuss the topic coverage for the units and group these topics into themes.

Involvement: Discussed who should be involved in the design of this curriculum, agreed that these would be all who work in education, primary and secondary education, has expertise in BSL, has experience in MFL, BSL teachers, ToDs, SALT and Researchers.