

NZSL@SCHOOL

New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL)@School: Information for Parents/Caregivers

[What is the purpose of the NZSL@School Initiative?](#)

The purpose of the NZSL@School is to support schools so that deaf children, who need New Zealand Sign Language, achieve educationally and socially at the same level as their hearing peers. NZSL@School provides a range of support to schools and parents/whānau, in addition to any other special education support deaf students receive, to help schools meet the learning, communication and cultural needs of deaf students who use NZSL.

NZSL@School is a new initiative and as it is implemented, it will grow and change to reflect the needs of deaf students, their parents/whānau and schools and any wider changes occurring within special education. This document describes NZSL@School processes that are being used during term 4, 2015 and term 1 2016. There will on-going consultation and parents will be kept up-to-date on any changes to NZSL@School.

[Who can access NZSL@School?](#)

To guide identification, the student needs indicators that describe the children/young people who are able to access NZSL@School are:

- NZSL is the child/young person's primary face-to-face language
- the child/young person has a verified diagnosis of hearing impairment
- the child/young person is enrolled in a regular school, kura kaupapa, Maori medium school, or a special education school (i.e. not a Deaf Education Centre).

[What support does NZSL@School provide?](#)

The support NZSL@School provides includes:

- NZSL tuition (which includes Deaf culture) for the deaf student (if required), the parents/caregivers, family/whānau, school staff and other students in the class/school
- Teacher's Aides or Interpreters funding to help students' access classroom teaching and learning with others and help them participate fully in all school activities through NZSL
- Specialist advice from Deaf Education professionals to schools on bi-lingual (NZSL-English/Te Reo) teaching strategies and creating school environments that support deaf children to participate fully in the life of a school
- In-service training to Teacher's Aide and teachers on teaching strategies for working with deaf students who use NZSL

[How many deaf students does NZSL@School cater for?](#)

There are currently 57 students participating in the project. NZSL@School will cater for approximately 80 students by 2016 and approximately 100 by 2017.

Who provides NZSL@School support to schools?

NZSL@ School is funded by the Ministry of Education and NZSL@School support and services are provided to schools, deaf students and their parents/whānau by Kelston Deaf Education Centre and van Asch Deaf Education Centre.

What New Zealand regions are KDEC and VDEC responsible for?

- **KDEC:** Students eligible to access KDEC's NZSL@School resources and funding will be in the region bounded by a line north of New Plymouth to Taumarunui, to Turangi and across to Opotiki.
- **VDEC:** Students eligible to access VADEC's NZSL@School resources and funding will be in the region bounded by a line south of New Plymouth to Taumarunui, to Turangi and across to Opotiki.

When and how to apply to for NZSL@School?

An application can be made to access NZSL@School at any stage in a school year for children enrolled at school or for pre-school children.

For a preschool child, it is recommended applications are made 4-5 months prior to a child starting school. Your child's team should submit the NZSL@School Application form to their Kelston (nzslschool@kdec.school.nz) or van Asch Deaf Education Centre Regional Manager (nzsl@school@vanasch.school.nz).

What happens when a NZSL@School Application form is submitted?

The NZSL@School Application form is submitted to the Deaf Education Centre's NZSL@School Committee. If your child's access to NZSL@school is approved, your school Principal will be notified. The school Principal is responsible for notifying you of the outcome of the application.

How to request a review of your child's access to NZSL@School?

If you and your child's team have applied to the Deaf Education Centres NZSL@School Committee to access NZSL@School and the request has been declined, you and your team can request for a review of the Committee's decision. The team makes a written request for the application to be reviewed by the DEC NZSL@School Steering Committee.

Refer to the NZSL@School Guidelines for information on the review process and talk to talk to your child's team.

Please send any review queries to:

KDEC: nzslschool@kdec.school.nz

VADEC: nzslschool@vanasch.school.nz

What happens if my child is accepted onto NZSL@School?

You, your child's team and a member of either KDEC or VADEC NZSL@School team will meet to discuss the NZSL needs of your child (based upon your child's [Individual Plan](#) (IP)) to create an environment in the school that supports your child to learn in the classroom and participate in all school activities. The meeting will also discuss your and your family/whanau needs and the needs of the school. The NZSL@School team member will provide information about the type and level of NZSL@School support that is available.

At the meeting, you, your child's team and the NZSL@School team member will complete a [NZSL@School Resourcing form](#). The form will be provided to the NZSL@School Committee by the NZSL@School team member. The Committee will then confirm the NZSL@School support that will be provided to your child, you and your family/whanau and the school via the school principal.

For pre-school students, this meeting will occur before your child starts school.

[How long can my child stay on NZSL@School?](#)

For children on NZSL@School, the resourcing and funding stays with them throughout their time at school, for as long as they meet the NZSL@School student needs indicators and require the support NZSL@School provides.

[Will my child keep any other special education funding they receive if they are on NZSL@School?](#)

Your child will keep any special funding they are eligible to receive for as long as they require it and NZSL@School in addition to any other special education funding or support your child receives.

[Teacher's Aide funding](#)

In the NZSL@School Resourcing process, as well as requesting Teacher's Aide time for your child to access classroom learning and school activities, you and your child's team can also request additional Teacher's Aide time for any planned school activities, for example school camps, and evening school events that may occur during the school year. Your child's team is also able to ask for additional time for the Teacher's Aide to have regular professional development outside of classroom time to enable them to have NZSL tuition. Funding for in-class support and additional activities will be provided equitably to students on NZSL@School within the funding available.

[Who employs the Teacher's Aide?](#)

The school that your child is enrolled in is responsible for employing the Teacher's Aide.

[What is the role of the Teacher's Aide?](#)

The role of the Teacher's Aide (through the NZSL@School funding) is to provide NZSL so that your child can access classroom learning and school activities alongside other students. Where KDEC and VADEC are involved, they are responsible for working with the schools to provide support and advice so that the class teacher and Teacher's Aide understands how to provide effective NZSL communication access for your child.

[Can I request a qualified NZSL Interpreter instead of a Teacher's Aide to provide NZSL?](#)

Currently the NZSL@School is able to fund mainly Teacher's Aides to provide NZSL communication. It is recommended that you discuss this with your KDEC or VADEC team member, the possibility of a qualified NZSL Interpreter as part of your child's team meeting to discuss your child's NZSL@School resourcing needs.

[How does my school know my child NZSL needs?](#)

All students on NZSL@School must have a current [Individual Plan](#) (IP) that describes your child's special education needs, what goals you and the team plan to help your child achieve, how you and the team will do this, and the resources needed to achieve the goals. Your child's team should use information from the IP to determine how the type and level of support your child needs so the school is able to provide an environment that meets the learning, communication and social needs of your child.

[What happens if I wish to have a review of the NZSL@School support my child is receiving?](#)

Talk to your child's team and decide if you wish to review of the NZSL@School support your child is receiving. If you and your child's team would like changes to the NZSL@School resources they are receiving, they will firstly meet with a KDEC or VADEC NZSL@School team member to discuss. A NZSL@School Resourcing form can then be completed and submitted by the NZSL@School team member to the NZSL@School Committee. This can be done at any time during a school year.

[Who can learn NZSL?](#)

The DEC's employ NZSL Tutors (the majority of these staff are Deaf) to provide NZSL tutoring to who ever you and your child's team decides needs this service. You, your family/whānau, school staff and your child can have access to regular, ongoing NZSL tutoring (this includes learning about Deaf culture). You and your child's team will put in a NZSL tuition request on the NZSL@School Resourcing form. You and your child's school can ask at any time during a school year for a review of the NZSL tutoring you are receiving. Talk to your NZSL Tutor in the first instance.

[What happens if my child changes school?](#)

Your child stays on NZSL@School no matter what school they move to. If they move to a new school, a meeting should be held with you and your child's new team at the school to review the NZSL@School resourcing your child and the team will receive.

[I would like further information about the Ministry of Education's Ongoing Resourcing Scheme \(ORS\)](#)

Go to the [Ongoing Resourcing Scheme](#) or the Ministry of Education's website or talk to your child's lead worker if you would like further information.

[Where can I get further information about NZSL@School?](#)

The [NZSL@School Guidelines](#) on the KDEC or VAEC websites provide full information about NZSL@School.

[Can I talk to someone about NZSL@School?](#)

You can talk to your child's lead worker or contact your KDEC or VADEC NZSL@School team member

Kelston Deaf Education Centre (KDEC)

To contact any KDEC staff member including a KDEC NZSL@School team member:

Phone: 09 827 4859

Fax: 09 827 9819

TTY: 09 827 9806

Email: nzslschool@kdec.school.nz

van Asch Deaf Education Centre (VADEC)

To contact any VADEC staff member including the VADEC NZSL@School team member:

Phone: 03 326 6009

TTY: 03 326 6009

Fax: 03 326 5346

Email: nzslschool@vanasch.school.nz