



Deaf Children New Zealand | Tamariki Turi O Aotearoa

Life Stages | Secondary School

Starting secondary school is a big step for any young person, a chance to further develop their independence and understanding of the world around them, make new friends, and pursue new activities and interests. All of this on top of the academic expectations that will often affect their career choices once they finish school.

Transitioning from a primary or intermediate environment can be challenging for students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing as it means they will encounter a number of different teachers and physical environments more often during their day. Self-reliance in the student and teachers who have some understanding of these challenges will really help.

Tips from a Deaf secondary school student

Zoe is a Deaf teenager attending high school, New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) is Zoe's first language.

She has some good tips for relief teachers in this short video.

Go to [youtube to watch Zoe's video](#)



Financial assistance from DCNZ

Each year DCNZ recognises the top achievers throughout New Zealand with **Excellence Awards** from Year 1 to Year 13. Anyone is welcome to nominate a child or young person.

DCNZ can provide assistance to subsidise the cost of:

- assistive technology for your child;
- private tutor for students studying towards NCEA;
- private Speech-Language Therapist; and
- NZ Sign Language classes for the whole family

Other opportunities include

- Advanced learning scholarships for two post-secondary students; and
- Grants for Individuals and Parent Groups

Go to the [Get Funding page](#) on our website for more details.



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IEP in secondary

Individual Education Plans or IEPs do continue through the secondary school years, however your preferred secondary school may not have experience with IEPs or students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

IEP Online has a section specifically for secondary schools to help them to understand the IEP guidelines and what strategies can be used in the secondary setting.

Go to [IEP in Secondary](#) on IEP Online.

There are also stories from secondary school leaders - principals and Heads of Department - who have worked with the whole school to ensure the IEP process is successful and supports the goals and aspirations of the student.

Go to the [IEP stories, School leaders tab](#) on IEP Online

NZSL@School

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. See the attached document for more information.

Go to the [Information Sheets page](#) on our website, to read NZSL@Schools Parent Information sheet - September 2015.

Youth Hui videos

[National Deaf Youth Hui 2014](#)

In 2014 the Ministry of Education brought Deaf students together from across New Zealand for a weekend of ideas, learning and friendship. The intention for the hui was to better understand what school is really like for Deaf students and to gather their ideas on how things could be improved. This video captures the workshops, fun activities and growing friendships that happened over the weekend.

[You to Me; Me to You - Youth](#)

This video summarises all the tips and strategies captured during the two Youth Hui in 2014. The three key themes are staying connected, being assertive and confident to ask for what you need in your education and being prepared and ready for your learning.

Ko Wai Au (See My Voice) video

[Ko Wai Au \(See My Voice\)](#)

This exhibition empowers Māori rangatahi (youth) who identify as Deaf to communicate with others leading to a wider understanding of aspirations as young Deaf Māori. This video captures an inspiring dialogue from six rangatahi.

Contact Us

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