

Audio-phonetic rehabilitation

Sister Lara Hijazin describes the provision in the Pontifical Institute 'Effetà Paul VI', Bethlehem for audio-phonetic rehabilitation

Effetà Paul VI Institute is a school that aims to provide audio-phonetic rehabilitation and education for deaf and hard of hearing Palestinian children from preschool until the end of high school. The school is managed by the Sisters of St. Dorothy, Daughters of the Sacred Heart in Vicenza (Italy), with the cooperation of 46 specialized local teaching staff. The principal aim of the school is audio-phonetic rehabilitation that will lead to an integral and harmonious development of students as they overcome their handicap through audio exercises and oral communication.

The institute is situated in Bethlehem (Palestine) and was founded in 1971 in response to the wish of his Holiness Paul VI in the wake of his pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1964. Currently, the institute provides rehabilitation and education for children aged 1-18 years who are deaf or who have a mild to severe hearing impairment.

Every year, Effetà Institute welcomes about 180 deaf/hearing-impaired children of every religion, constituting, in fact, in everyday life, an educational center for coexistence and mutual tolerance. The students come from different cities of Palestine: Bethlehem governorate and its neighboring villages, in addition to Hebron and neighboring villages, Ramallah and Jericho.

Rehabilitation methods of Effetà Institute

Through gradual and progressive education, any child attending Effetà Institute is helped to relate to others, to communicate adequately and to integrate positively into society. The method used by the school's speech therapists, teachers and educators is defined as 'oral'. From preschool onwards, language is developed through a combination of auditory training, the use of residual hearing and lip-reading together with speech practice. Subsequently, the

child is supported to develop competence in more complex language including the ability to use and understand grammar and syntax.

Education cycle at Effetà Institute

Early rehabilitation: The early rehabilitation speech therapy program includes a personalized bi-weekly meeting with a speech therapist for one to three-year-old



children. This service was established with the purpose of developing the communication skills of every deaf/hearing-impaired child through the visual, mimic-expressive and auditory-vocal channels; it is also useful to get parents and children familiar with the use of hearing aids.

Kindergarten: The kindergarten welcomes children from three to six years old, divided by age into three levels. Our kindergarten offers several activities tailored to the challenges that hearing impairment causes for language learning. The educational methodology includes games and exercises for auditory training to stimulate attention, to allow children to learn lip-reading and to increase their interest in communication.



Compulsory schooling: According to the Palestinian Ministerial Plan, the institute is open from Monday to Friday to students from 1st to 12th grade (primary school to high school). The average stay of every student at the school is 13 or 14 years in order to obtain the maximum benefits. The minimum number of students per class is 4, while the maximum is 12. The students are helped collectively and individually to overcome the difficulties of understanding and are stimulated to communicate and learn. In the classroom, the teachers carry out activities aimed at developing the main language skills: the production and comprehension of written and spoken Arabic. These lessons are also accompanied by the teaching of complementary subjects such as history, geography and natural sciences. The teaching staff, while adhering to the ministerial programs, research and use innovative methodologies and activities, suitable for the rehabilitation of the hearing-impaired child. The integrated use of bespoke teaching materials specifically created for the purpose, such as illustrated charts, posters, audio-visual media and computer tools, facilitates the learning process of the students.

Effetà Institute's other services

Individual speech therapy intervention:

The institute provides individualized sessions in which the speech therapist teaches each child – through phonetic exercises – to understand and formulate oral messages. During each session, every child is encouraged to learn to clearly express his/her thoughts and emotions. Throughout the entire school education process, the student undergoes individual or group speech therapy in which he/she initially learns to use his voice and to form words. Subsequently, each student learns to express sentences, to communicate, to understand oral messages and to transmit them.

Social assistance:

Within the institute, a social welfare service is available for the students' families. The purpose of this service is to provide parents with useful information and assistance for



dealing with their children's deafness and any economic and working difficulties of the family. The service also manages relations with other Palestinian public institutions, centers and services to allow students to continue their studies and subsequently facilitate their job placements.

The residential center:

Effetà institute offers female students arriving from remote areas, from Monday to Thursday, the chance to use the residential center within the Institute itself. The girls who reside in the institute are looked after during play and study afternoon activities by teachers and volunteers; they are also accompanied in their daily needs by the Sisters of Saint Dorothy. The older female students are taught to help the religious Sisters in the task of looking after the younger girls. Due to the coronavirus spread in Palestine, the school is unable to house the female students this year, so the residential center is closed.

Parenting group training

Parents remain the first and main responsible people for



the education of their children. On this basis, the institute organizes monthly meetings for the parents to increase their basic cultural knowledge and their skills concerning the communication issues of deaf/hearing-impaired children.

During these meetings, the institute's teachers and external experts convey knowledge and useful tips to families to continue the educational and rehabilitation work carried out in the institute at home, in addition to supporting their children in the study and learning process.

Sister Lara Hijazin is a Director of Effetà Paul VI School Bethlehem.

BATOD was there representing you...

Between the NEC meetings, members of BATOD attend various meetings that are of particular interest to Teachers of the Deaf. This list is not exhaustive. Your representatives at the meetings listed (as known at the time of writing) included: Sue Denny, Helen Devereux Murray, Steph Halder, Conor Mervyn, Rachel O'Neill, Paul Simpson, Lindsey Stringer, Teresa Quail, Stuart Whyte, Nicky Weightman.

Date	External participants	Purpose of meeting	Venue
October			
6	NITC (Northern Ireland Teaching Council)	Contact meeting	Zoom
8	University Reading	Research meeting	MS Teams
14	Institute of Apprenticeships	Trailblazer meeting	MS Teams
15	NDCS and NASUWT	Meeting about face coverings	Zoom
20	STRB	Remit for 2021	MS Teams
21	Communication Trust	Regular meeting	Zoom
27	ToD from US	Discussion re coming to UK	Zoom
29	Deafness and Education International	Annual meeting	MS Teams
November			
3	VOICE	Follow up meeting	Zoom
5	CRIDE	Regular meeting	Zoom
5	Ofqual Access Consultation	Forum on 2021 exams	MS Teams
9	UCAC	Contact meeting	Zoom
10	Ewing Foundation	Meeting with CEO	Zoom
12	NatSIP Working Day	Examination workshop	Zoom
19	University of Hertfordshire/Mary Hare Course programme	Committee meeting	MS Teams
23	Ewing Foundation	Fundraising discussion	Zoom
25	NAATD	Discussion re Australian version of CRIDE	Zoom
30	NDCS	Regular meeting	Zoom
December			
1	Alliance on Deafness and Hearing Loss	Regular meeting	Zoom
3	Edexcel/Pearson	Contact meeting	Zoom
3	British Society of Audiology	Contact meeting	MS Teams
8	University of Cambridge	Deaf awareness training	Zoom
10	NatSIP HoSS/NatSIP	Planning meeting	Zoom
11	NatSIP	Reference group	Zoom
15	Ofqual Access Consultation Forum	Regular meeting	MS Teams

Please inform the National Executive Officer, Paul Simpson, if you know of any meetings where you feel representation on behalf of Teachers of the Deaf would be of benefit. Although there is no guarantee that BATOD would be able to attend every meeting, situations could be monitored and the interests of ToDs represented.

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