
Achievements of Deaf Pupils in

By the end of Spring all but one local authority in Scotland had agreed to co-operate in the collection of information about the attainments of deaf children in Scotland, and it really began to feel that the project was now in full swing.

Questionnaire pilot

After consulting with a wide range of individuals and groups we had our questionnaire ready for piloting just before Easter. We are very grateful to heads and staff at Donaldson's College and the City of Edinburgh Council's Visiting Service for assisting with this. We made quite a few changes as a result of the feedback we got from all concerned. Some of the main decisions were:

- to cut the size of the questionnaire this year to make it realistic for teachers to have time to complete it before summer;
- to create a separate questionnaire for pre-school children;
- to improve any questions which had proved to be unclear.

There was no time to lose in making the changes, as the printing deadline of 11th May was already looming ...

Production line

Our administrator Emily had the challenging task of organising the practicalities of distributing approximately 1,500 questionnaires efficiently to all corners of Scotland. This was no small task and included making sure that we had a coding system worked out so that all information would be anonymous to us; ensuring that we had accurate numbers from all schools, resource bases and visiting services; getting the 'production line' organised so that all the right paperwork went into each correctly-addressed parcel.

Production Day was Friday, 18th May. Assisted by numerous cups of coffee and chocolate biscuits, the team finally had the last pile ready to go by 6.30 pm that evening. Whew!

Responses so far

Summer term is very busy, so we particularly appreciate the time taken to complete the questionnaires by Teachers of the Deaf all over Scotland. At the time of writing, over 1,000 completed questionnaires have been returned, and we are very hopeful that we will get a lot more in August.

Scotland - project update

Consultations and presentations

One of the key features of the project is ongoing consultation with groups and individuals who have an interest ('stakeholders' in today's jargon). Since our last newsletter article we have met regularly with a number of parents, Deaf adults, Heads of Services/Resource Bases/Schools, Teachers of the Deaf, Speech and Language Therapists, a Paediatrician, Educational Psychologists, Educational Audiologists, etc, etc.

We have given presentations at a range of family and staff development days throughout Scotland and Marian has discussed the completion of questionnaires with a number of teachers' groups. Do get in touch if you would like one of us to give a presentation. We sent out a parents' newsletter in May, and expect the next one to be early in the Autumn.

CEM Centre Assessments

Previously we described why we are supporting the use of CEM Centre assessments for deaf children in Scotland. Since then we have agreed to subsidise the cost of the assessments for specific year groups in the 2001/02 school year. We have written to all relevant services and

schools, and hope that most will take up the offer.

What happens next?

In the Autumn term we will be kept busy distributing part 2 of the main questionnaire (to record Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) results), finalising and distributing the pre-school questionnaire and inputting data. We will continue to consult with groups and individuals, as well as doing presentations, eg, we are holding a parents' meeting on Saturday, 27th October and presenting at the Scottish Educational Psychologists' annual conference in September. Watch this space for further developments!

Please contact us if you would like to comment, or have any queries about any aspect of the project (including the parents' meeting above):
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