

Ann Hall



I have worked with visually and hearing impaired students in primary and secondary school for nearly 35 years and still thoroughly enjoy my role.

I make sure I understand the condition and diagnosis of the students and then my main aim is for them to be safe, happy and get the best education they can. I have been very lucky to work with students where this has happened.

I came to Arthur Mellows to support a deaf boy and when he left, I was asked to work with a Year 7 girl who was registered blind.

I visited her in her primary school and then worked on getting her ready for the big change of moving to a secondary setting. I arranged for her to come into school before Primary Day on a number of occasions so I could prepare for her needs and so she could get used to the building for the start of the Autumn Term.

I am very proud of how the students I have supported have grown up into confident adults and ready to face the outside world.

When the Countess of Wessex visited the school a few years ago, the pupil I supported demonstrated her Braille skills for her. The same pupil gained high A Level results.

Another student I supported between Year 9 to Year 13 was registered blind and gained a place in the Paralympic swimming team. This was a challenge for me to keep him up to date with his studies due to the time he had off school. He also achieved good grades.

For the last two and a half years, I have been supporting a student who had her right eye removed due to Retinoblastoma and has macular scarring and a fine nystagmus in her left eye. I work closely with her teachers so I can adapt work if necessary and support her in class when needed. This allows me to work in the office to adapt work for the VI Hub.

I enjoy my job because I know I make a difference to the students and make their life in school easier by liaising with teachers on a daily basis to discuss what is needed for lessons as well as being that students eyes, for example if bags are not under the table or the lighting is not correct.

There is also the ongoing checking of safety around the school, tape on stairs and safety outside and being aware if the layout changes.

I try to attend as many VI courses as possible and have started to learn Braille. My role also includes liaising with outside agencies.