



THE STEPHEN HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND APHASIC

DETECT INTERVENE EDUCATE INTEGRATE





VISION

Enabling children with hearing loss to live to their full potential.

MISSION

Facilitating early detection and timely intervention by way of sensitisation activities, hearing screenings, rehab services and formal education for children with hearing loss.

OBJECTIVES

To create awareness among communities and medical fraternities about hearing impairment and the need for timely screening and intervention.



To provide access to timely screening and diagnosis to needy children with hearing impairment.



To provide necessary therapy, education support and resource linkages to children with hearing impairment and integrate them into mainstream / special education system as desired.

CORE VALUES

Trust | Dedication | Innovation | Collaboration



A noble mission

A humble origin

A dedicated approach

...manifested into

**The Stephen High School for the Deaf and Aphasic &
The Montfort Care Early Intervention Centre.**



THE STEPHEN HIGH SCHOOL

A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step - and so it did. The school traces its roots in the family home of Mrs. Nancy Desa and Dr. Joe Desa in their pioneering attempt to help children with hearing loss in 1957. Today, the school is a leading entity in this field providing formal education, early intervention, speech therapy, skill building, medical support and counselling to children with hearing impairment.

In almost seven decades of its existence, the School has achieved a number of path-breaking firsts. Mrs. Desa introduced a unique educational approach that emphasised verbal communication and was the first to teach deaf children to play musical instruments.

In keeping with this legacy of empowering and educating deaf children, the School today takes a holistic approach that goes beyond academics. Under the expert management of the Montfort Brothers of St Gabriel Educational Society - Pune, it has harnessed modernisation and state-of-the-art technology to offer speech therapy, audiological services, rehabilitation, and extracurricular activities in addition to formal education.



Leader in special education

First to offer the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) program

Introduced auditory-verbal training techniques and the use of hearing aids

Sent teachers overseas for N.C.T.D. diploma courses

Helped integrate deaf children into regular colleges



Golden Jubilee 2007



Diamond Jubilee 2017



TIMELINE

School founded (Desa ENT Hospital)

1957

Maharashtra SSC syllabus introduced

1965

Trust registered

1960

Government-aided status granted

1974

Management entrusted to the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel Education Society

1996

Campus expanded into a four-storey building

2014

Inclusive junior college started

2015

MONTFORT CARE EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE

“ Those whom the world rejects must
move you the most. ”

— St.Montfort

It is critical that hearing loss be detected and treated at a young age. There is a dire need for early intervention and specialised care for children with hearing disabilities. Recognising this fact, Ranjith Moovarasu SG, the present Director of The Stephen High School for the Deaf and Aphasic founded the Montfort Care Early Intervention Centre (EIC) in 2018 to offer timely therapy, medical support, audiological counselling and social and academic integration.

The EIC boasts modern infrastructure, state-of-the-art labs, and trained staff. In order to carry out early identification, intervention and treatment, the centre organises awareness camps, screening camps and provides access to Audiological intervention and Auditory Verbal Therapy. So far, 78% of the children identified and supported by EIC have enrolled in formal education settings in sharp contrast to the 5% nationally.

The Montfort Care Early Intervention Centre in synergy with The Stephen High School for the Deaf and Aphasic works towards achieving audiological excellence by leveraging technology, technique and teaching in order to offer children with hearing disabilities to lead a better, full and normal life.



Solar plant installed
(campus now
~80% solar)

School trustee
awarded the
Padma Shri

AVT
learning app
launched

Curriculum
manuals
published

2016

2018

2020

2022

2023

2024

2025

Early Intervention
Centre (Montfort
Care EIC) founded

Counselling
manual
published

Music &
Singing learning
introduced



ACTIVITIES

The Institution is constantly striving to detect, help, facilitate and empower children with hearing disabilities. Various activities are undertaken by the school and the EIC in order to achieve this.

Creating Hearing Health Awareness

Hearing impairment is a disability that often goes unnoticed due to less awareness, inadequate facilities, and social stigma. To combat these challenges, the EIC runs programmes for low-income communities, government hospitals, health departments, clinics, and other NGOs. Hearing Health camps, conducted twice a week, focused on sharing information about best practices, causes, detection and the professionals to contact. Literature, visual clips, games, etc. are used to spread awareness about hearing loss.

Screening and Audiological Management

Screening Camps are regularly held in government hospitals, primary schools and community housing to detect hearing loss in newborns and young children using technologies and tests like OAE (Otoacoustic Emissions) and PTA (Pure-Tone Audiometer). Based on the screening and testing data, referrals and guidance are provided to parents and caregivers to take necessary action.

Confirmatory tests are conducted at the centre wherein the degree and type of hearing loss are detected in the audiology lab. Hearing device fitting is then carried out after careful selection and programming; CI mapping with partner hospitals is also done and parents are given hands-on-training for the same.





Speech and Auditory Verbal Therapy

A tailor-made therapy programme is charted based on the specific requirement of each hearing impaired child who undergoes training to imitate and produce distinct sounds that lay the groundwork for speech. A systematic approach is taken to support their auditory, speech, and language development. Parents are encouraged to actively engage and acquaint themselves with the therapy process and the way ahead. After the child has learnt to listen and speak, they are ready for schooling in a formal education setup.

Formal Education

Profoundly hearing-challenged children (with a hearing loss of more than 90 decibels or not able to hear at all between 5-16 yrs of age) are imparted formal education at The Stephen School from nursery to class X under the Secondary School Certificate, Maharashtra Board. Students learn language, mathematics, science, computers and social studies. The School has a student-teacher ratio of 1:8. The faculty includes special educators, a PT teacher and an office clerk.



Learning adventures at foundational stage - this provides a solid start for future learning and development for children in nursery to class II. This is a child-centric approach that focuses on their interests, needs, and abilities and helps them develop fine motor, gross motor, language, and cognitive skills as also social-emotional concepts like sharing, cooperation, turn taking and self-regulation.

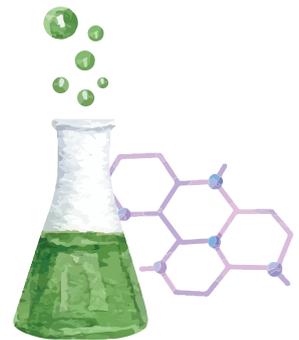




Co-Curricular Activities

Co-curricular activities engage students in a fun and interactive manner as also contribute to their overall development in terms of critical thinking, analysis, presentation skills, teamwork, etc.

- Physical education, Magic of Science, computers, AI-based learning apps, library reading.
- Photography, art & drawing, morning assemblies (class-led themes)





Extra-Curricular Activities

Participating in extracurricular activities offers a well-rounded educational experience beyond academics, preparing students for by enhancing social skills, friendships, and confidence.

- Yoga, Scouts & Guides, mass drill, educational trips.
- Storytelling sessions, literary/art/sports/cultural competitions, quizzes and general knowlegde.
- Football coaching (V-VIII), student council elections.



Support & Wellbeing

The School regularly carries out hearing-aid check-ups; audiogram evaluations and parental counselling. It also conducts workshops for hearing-device care & maintenance, nutrition & diet, health check-up camps; eco drives, etc.

Parent Programmes

This involves orientation, device-care & maintenance, nutrition, language in everyday settings, and language-rich outings (zoo, museum) as also initiatives like Har Ghar Hero - focusing on active involvement of fathers.





FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

From a one-room classroom to a four-storey building boasting state-of-the-art infrastructure, The Stephen High School has come a long way. It strives to harness the powers of technology, audiovisual materials and expert services for the all-round development of deaf children.

Specialised Classrooms

The School is one of the first to have customised furniture in its 28 spacious, well-equipped classrooms to facilitate student-teacher interaction and engagement. The entire campus is surrounded by trees to reduce outside noise and sound pollution so that the children can concentrate better.

- **Digital interactive boards** are used to help improve learning.
- **Specially designed wooden furniture** in the classrooms does not interfere with the hearing assistive devices.
- **U shaped seating arrangement** enables direct eye contact with the teachers thus making it easy to lipread, understand gestures, etc.





State-of-the-art Labs

The Stephen School has various well-equipped labs in order to facilitate tests and therapy as well as provide students with essential IT skills and a deeper appreciation for science.

- The **Audiology Lab** provides audiological support for tests like OAE, Pure-tone Audiometry, Speech Audiometry, ABR, Hearing aid fitting, Cochlear Implant Mapping, etc.
- **Computer and Science Labs** offer hands-on training through computers, WiFi access and apparatus for experiments and practicals.
- **Sound-treated Therapy Labs** help develop speech and language understanding by cutting out all outside disturbances and sounds.

Library

The School has a well-stocked library to encourage good reading habits in students. Story-telling sessions are also organised here in order to engage and inspire the children as also to enrich their emotional, moral and language comprehension.





AV Room

The Audio-Visual facility is used for conducting learning sessions through videos on current affairs, new developments, training programmes, etc.

BERA Room

This is a specialised, soundproof Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometer (BERA) room where procedures are carried out to test and check hearing loss in infants and children.

Therapy Room

Activity based Auditory Verbal Therapy sessions for children and their parents are held in this acoustically treated room with toys, puzzles, story books, etc. to enhance speech and listening skills.

Besides these facilities, the School also has a conference room, a dedicated sports and games area, an auditorium, a comfortable staff room and clean washrooms.

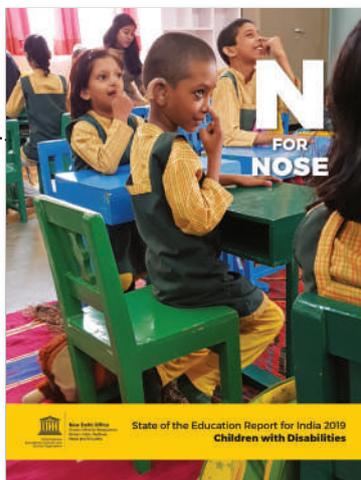


PUBLICATIONS

In its constant and continuous attempt to achieve excellence in the field of audiology with a single-minded focus on hearing loss, The Stephen School has several path-breaking initiatives to its credit. It works not only for the betterment of its students and deaf children but also offers guidance and assistance to parents, care givers, medical fraternity and everyone directly or indirectly affected by hearing loss.

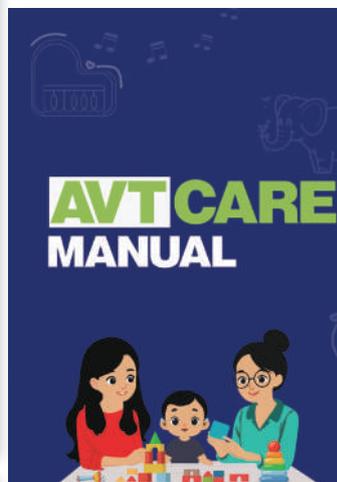
Published Material:

A study on how early interventions benefit children with hearing issues undertaken by the school was published in the UNESCO magazine (2019)



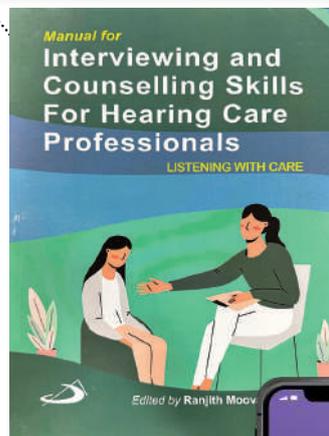
AVT Care Manual :

This book is specifically designed for professionals and parents to serve as a comprehensive reference guide to enhance specialised skills and knowledge in a concise and accessible format.



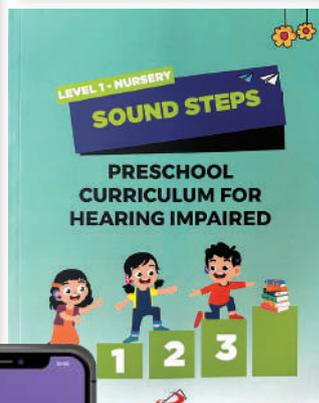
Counselling Care Manual:

This first-of-its-kind manual provides essential counselling skills and practical strategies to professionals engaged in supporting hearing and speech impaired children and their families.



Curriculum Manual :

This specialised curriculum adapted to the specific needs of three levels of preschool children (4-8 years) with hearing impairment consists of three different manuals that address and promote language development, socialisation, and academic skills.



Mobile App :

AVT CARE (Auditory Verbal Therapy CARE) - this accessible, affordable, and engaging android-based application has pre-recorded therapy sessions to help professionals and parents conduct therapy. This app is available in Hindi, English and Marathi.





GOING GREEN



The Stephen School aims at becoming fully green by 2030, the initiatives for which are already being implemented. It has flagged off - **My School, My Pride** programme that focuses on eco-friendliness, cleanliness and waste management.



1. A **25kw Solar Plant** installed in the school has **reduced bills by 95%** as also its carbon footprint.
2. Use of **charts, models, and street plays while conducting awareness camps** helps reduce the need for electronic devices, energy consumption and overuse of plastic.
3. Paper record-keeping is gradually being replaced by **digital records**.
4. **Recycling, composting, and waste segregation** have been implemented to minimise the environmental impact of waste disposal.
5. **Water harvesting** is used to collect rainwater and channel it into an underground well behind the school building.
6. **Water conservation techniques** and **water-saving habits** are taught to the students to inculcate a civic responsibility in them.
7. **Plantation drives** within and around the School have a dual benefit - help create a greener environment and also impact natural sound acoustics and dust absorption.



Major Collaborations

AYJNISHD, Bandra

V N Desai Hospital, Santacruz

Lilavati Hospital, Bandra

MED-EL, Mumbai

Indira Gandhi Hospital, Mira Road

Bhabha Hospital, Kurla

Bhabha Hospital, Bandra

Vasant Valley and Shastri Nagar
under KDMC, Kalyan

Integrated Child Development
Services, Mumbai

Public health Centres, Mumbai

Cochlear India Limited, Mumbai

Advance Bionics, Mumbai

Holy Family Hospital, Andheri

A collaboration with **Youth4Jobs
Foundation** and **Tech Mahindra
Foundation** helps enable
youngsters with disabilities to
avail of job opportunities.

Major Donors

SBI Life Insurance

Azim Premji Foundation

MCX

Tech Mahindra Foundation

Concern India Foundation

CSR Compliance Documents

CSR Form 1

80 G Certificate

12 AA Certificate

Trust Registration Certificate

NITI Aayog DARPAN Certificate



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CSR Compliant - Mumbai - 1957

