



73,000 teacher days lost to voice strain every year

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In 59% of schools surveyed teachers complained of voice strain and nearly one third reported associated sick leave.

14.5% of schools indicated losing up to 6 teacher days and 6% reported 10 to 35 days lost per year from voice strain, costing up to £7,000 in supply cover.

Voice strain can be relieved, saving much of this expense, by purchasing teacher voice enhancement technology, known as "soundfield systems" for as little as £645.

"We have been using soundfield systems in my school for a couple of years now. Not only are there identifiable learning benefits for the children in hearing the teacher better – we have eliminated voice strain related sick leave," comments a London Head.

The survey revealed that 96% of Heads believed poor classroom acoustics adversely affect children's learning. But only 23% had heard of the RNID findings that up to one million schoolchildren under 14 are missing out in their lessons because they find it hard to distinguish speech in noisy classroom environments (source: RNID December 2006).

Research* has proved that children below mid-teen age require clearer voice signals and lower background noise than adults to fully understand what is being communicated. In noisy classrooms (over 30% in this survey) the use of simple soundfield voice enhancement technology by teachers overcomes this problem, improves learning and ultimately, academic results – even where English is not their first language.

P.C. Werth Soundfield Systems (www.soundfield.info) surveyed 5,000 UK primary school Head Teachers during November 2007. The company will be demonstrating its latest soundfield systems and educational DVD at BETT 2008, stand number A51

* Research sources: 'Evaluating Sound Field Amplification Technology in New Brunswick Schools' (2007), 'Rationale For The Use of Sound Field Systems in Classrooms' (2005), P C Werth Soundfield Systems/RNID Survey (Nov 2007).

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