



Information on Amplification

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Amplifiers are a very useful tool for teachers to use to help to look after their voices. We know that teachers have problems with their voices because of their vocal load and risk; that is how long and how loudly they talk. So if you can reduce how loudly you have to talk then that should reduce the vocal risk. There are some excellent and relatively inexpensive amplifiers available these days and my view is if there is something that can help protect your voice then why not use it. That is not to say that all teachers should use amplification all of the time. The reason for this is if that is the only way you can get a loud voice then what are you going to do when you are out socially in a noisy environment. It is important to learn how to get a loud voice safely and use an amplifier when needed. Also not all rooms are conducive to amplification nor do all teachers need it. Amplifiers are especially useful for certain activities - playground duty, sporting activities, either class sport or coaching, swimming and athletics carnivals, talking in a large hall or for school excursions, taking band practice, or talking over musical instruments, taking rehearsals for school productions. There are probably many other school activities that I have not listed that I'm sure teachers will recognise as vocally demanding that could be made easier on the voice with amplification. I also think that if teachers are experiencing vocal fatigue then an amplifier can help the voice survive through the day. So using an amplifier to read a story at the end of the day may just provide some relief for the voice, or using it for that class that proves most vocally challenging.

Often when I recommend a teacher use an amplifier they are reluctant to do so. This is usually because they think the amplifier will interfere with their normal interaction with students. This is rarely the case, as students quickly get use to the amplifier as do other staff members. The other reason teachers often cite is that it will interfere with other classes as their voice will be too loud. This is a classic misunderstanding of the usefulness of the amplification. The idea of using an amplifier is to reduce vocal effort and the volume you need to speak so the end result should be that your voice is at the same volume as it normally is but the amplifier is doing the work not you. Consequently there should be no additional interference than your normal teaching voice

For further advice on amplification or to make an appointment with Cecilia Pemberton, you can contact her directly on mobile 0412442617 or email info@voicecareaustralia.com.au