

Abstract EFAS/DGA 2007

The Audiovisual Noise Indicator – an appropriate instrument to reduce noise in classrooms.

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The persistent affairs over a longer period at the Tinnituszentrum Detmold clearly show:

- the number of pupils with hearing impairments is increasing
- the number of young people suffering from Tinnitus is increasing
- more and more teachers complain about increasing hyperacusis going along with vocal oversteering

The Audiovisual Noise Indicator is one possibility to antagonise this development.

The device is similar to a traffic light and evaluates the surrounding average noise level with a green, yellow or red signal.

Additionally, the red light can trigger a sound signal.

In September 2006 we provided 14 primary schools in Detmold with one Audiovisual Noise Indicator each. All relevant teachers and pupils have received a pedagogic introduction to the Audiovisual Noise Indicator.

After 10 weeks (November 2006) and after 26 weeks (February 2007) of active testing in class, the practical experiences were collected with a questionnaire.

The results are:

- pupils and teachers show an increasing awareness of noise
- almost all pupils have a positive attitude towards the use of Audiovisual Noise Indicators
- the teaching atmosphere is consistently sensed more enjoyably
- the majority of pupils and teachers regard the Audiovisual Noise Indicator as independent observer, who points to the noise
- most of the schools want to continue the use Audiovisual Noise Indicators
- vocal oversteering of the teachers is declining
- the use and the periods of use depend on the work phase
- many heads of school are demanding to take the Audiovisual Noise Indicator into the standard equipment of a school

After 6 month of field-testing, the use of Audiovisual Noise Indicators has proven its value. Further investigations will show, if the pupils school achievements improve with the use of Audiovisual Noise Indicators.

