



Hands-on
Partnership

Sign up for today

BSL

British Sign Language

is thought to have begun in the 1700s. BSL is a visual and gestural language, not written or spoken. It is a rich and complex language and different from other sign languages such as Irish Sign Language or American Sign Language.

ISL

Irish Sign Language

has influenced sign language in South Africa and Australia and is related to French Sign Language. It originated between 1846 and 1849. ISL is now an official language in its own right and is used by many Deaf people in Northern Ireland. Many of the signs and finger-spelling alphabet are completely different from BSL.



Department of Culture,
Arts and Leisure
www.dcalni.gov.uk

The Sign Language Partnership Group is a collaboration between Government Departments and organisations representing the Deaf Community to 'identify and recommend a course of action that will improve respect, understanding and tolerance of BSL and ISL in Northern Ireland.



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Sign up for the future

BSL

ISL

Hello



Please



Coffee



Happy



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DCAL

Department of Culture,
Arts and Leisure
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Sign up for the facts

In Northern Ireland:

220,000

people are Deaf
or hard of hearing

5,000

of these use
Sign Language

3,500

use BSL

1,500

use ISL

All figures are approximate



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