

- Secondary school pupils can be sensitive about using additional technology.
- Use the radio aid consistently and in all learning opportunities, including assemblies, P.E lessons etc.
- Activate the mute switch on the transmitter when appropriate. This is essential when a teacher is working/talking with other pupils or adults, as the hearing impaired pupil will be able to hear the teacher, which can be very distracting. Muting is also advised if the teacher has to leave the classroom or speak with a colleague or individual pupil, to ensure that any such discussions are not heard by the hearing impaired pupil, or through the soundfield system if in use.
- Ensure the radio aid is fully charged.
- During group or partner work, the transmitter should be placed in the centre of the group to use as a conference microphone.
- Report any faults to the SaPTS technician, the pupil's Teacher of the Deaf or Sensory Support Assistant.

When a radio aid system is issued to a pupil, training is provided by the Teacher of the Deaf and should be requested again where there is a change of teacher/staff.

### RADIO AIDS FOR USE AT HOME

SaPTS believe that learning and education does not end at the end of the school day and, as such, radio aids can be used at home and for after school/weekend activities. For example, radio aids are used for communicating in the car or for taking part in sports or clubs such as Scouts, Guides etc.

The pupil's Teacher of the Deaf can arrange for equipment to go home with the pupil once a SaPTS Equipment for Home agreement has been signed.

If any further support or advice is required regarding radio aid systems, please do not hesitate to contact the pupil's Teacher of the Deaf at SaPTS.

## Contact SaPTS

Contact the Sensory and Physical Teaching Service (SaPTS) by email, phone or post:

- @ [specialistservices.hub@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:specialistservices.hub@eastriding.gcsx.gov.uk)
- (01482) 394000
- ✉ **The Specialist Services Hub**  
Springhead Lane  
Anlaby Common  
East Riding of Yorkshire  
HU5 5YJ

For more information on support for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities look on the East Riding Local Offer [www.eastridinglocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.eastridinglocaloffer.org.uk) or speak to a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator in your child's school.

If you or someone you know would like this leaflet in an adapted format or in Braille please let us know.



## SaPTS Sensory and Physical Teaching Service

# Radio Aid Hearing Technology For Hearing Impaired Pupils -

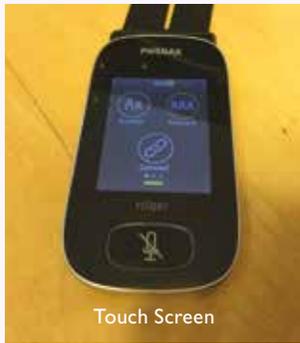
A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND SCHOOLS



## Most children and young people with hearing impairment wear hearing aid devices to help them hear and listen.

There are three main types of devices - digital hearing aids, cochlear implants and Bone Anchored Implants / Bone Conduction Hearing Aids. These hearing aids are all provided by the Health Service. However, sometimes hearing impaired pupils will need to use additional listening technology to help them listen more effectively and access their learning. This is when radio hearing aid technology can be used to great effect.

Radio aid technology is provided by SaPTS using an eligibility criteria to determine whether the technology will be of benefit.



Touch Screen



Receiver

## WHAT IS A RADIO AID SYSTEM?

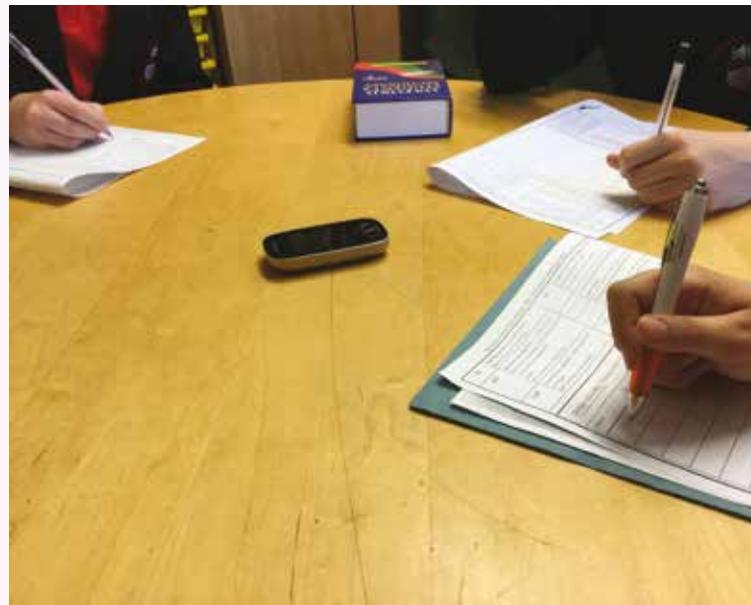
Radio aids can help a hearing impaired pupil to hear their teacher better. When such a system is used the pupil will hear the teacher's voice clearly and directly as though the teacher is sitting next to them. This means that they will hear the main speaker's voice clearly, even when there is background noise. Using radio aid systems can, therefore, enable the hearing impaired pupil to access their learning more effectively and allow them to achieve their full potential.

Radio Aid systems consist of two parts: a transmitter which is worn by the speaker and a receiver or receivers which are attached to the pupil's hearing aids, cochlear implant processors or Bone Conduction Aid. The transmitter converts the speaker's voice into a digital signal which is then transmitted to the pupil's receivers for them to hear clearly and directly.



## TOUCH SCREEN RADIO AID

Touch screen radio aids can also be used in a conference style option. This means that the radio aid can be placed in the middle of a table and it will pick up each speaker's voice and transmit them clearly and directly to the hearing impaired pupil making them ideal for group work, without the need to pass the transmitter around.



## SOUNDFIELD SYSTEMS

Soundfield systems are another type of technology which can be used in classrooms where there is a hearing impaired pupil. A soundfield system consists of a speaker fitted in the classroom/hall and a transmitter worn by the teacher.

The soundfield system works by producing the teacher's voice at a clear and consistent level. The benefit of a soundfield system is that all the pupils in the classroom will be able to hear the teacher and this results in less background noise.

For the hearing impaired pupil, this will mean that listening conditions are generally improved. The same transmitter, worn by the teacher for the pupil's radio aid would be used for the soundfield meaning that the hearing impaired pupil will still receive the speaker's voice directly to their receivers.

## EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF RADIO AIDS

It is essential that radio aid systems are managed effectively to ensure that the hearing impaired pupil gets the most benefit from them. The following guidance must be followed by all teachers and school staff using radio aid technology:

- Carry out daily radio aid checks to ensure the system is working and the pupil can hear through their receivers, for example, ask the pupil to repeat words whilst you are speaking at a distance away from the pupil.



Soundfield System