



Virtual School Sensory Support

Returning to School Audiology and Covid 19 - Advice for families

This document has been created in preparation for some children returning to school in June 2020. It will be updated as the situation evolves, and more information comes to light. We are mindful that certain measures necessary during this pandemic may impact access to the curriculum for pupils who are deaf, and we wish to support them, you and schools with meeting their hearing needs.

- Please replace hearing aid batteries every Monday morning, to reduce the risk of them needing to be changed at school during the week.
- For younger children, consider buying a headband in order to reduce the chances of hearing aid(s) or speech processor(s) becoming dislodged while your child is in school.
<https://www.facebook.com/MyEarHeadbands/>
- If your child is currently unable to insert their hearing aids independently, please practise with them putting the hearing aid(s) and ear mould(s) back in place by themselves. This can be tricky, but the more independently they can manage their equipment, the better for them, and the less risk there is of them being in school and unable to hear well, if staff are unable to assist.
- Consider if you are willing to be called into school if your child's audiological equipment needs adult attention – school staff may be unable to deal with this while social distancing.
- We have advised schools that any child who wears hearing aid(s) or speech processor(s) should sit at the front of the classroom, in the best position to be able to hear and lip read the teacher.
- If you have a child who has a radio aid system, we have established that use of the **Roger Touchscreen** and **ConnectClip** devices could be viable, should schools and families be comfortable with this, as they can be cleaned within the current guidelines. If there are concerns about cleaning the fabric lanyard for the Roger Touchscreen, then the lanyard can be removed (carefully using the release button on the back of the device) and the transmitter can be used in desk mode (placed flat on a surface close to the teacher, or on the pupil's desk for group work). Presently we are reserved about the use of the **Inspiro** radio aid systems, as they are more challenging to clean adequately and do not have a desk mode.



Roger Touchscreen



ConnectClip



Inspiro

- If you have a child with a radio aid system that comes home, the manufacturer's guidance on cleaning will be shared with you. If it is to be used in school and you would rather it does not come home at present, please advise school, and ensure they have the charger.
- We have reminded schools that if a pupil usually has the benefit of a radio aid system, but use of their system is not currently feasible, deaf friendly communication will be even more critical than usual.

For further support and guidance please contact your Teacher of the Deaf.