

## **Resourced Schools for Hearing Impaired Pupils**

### **Audiology Policy**

Our children are actively encouraged to wear, use and maintain their hearing aids and cochlear implants daily. We ensure that the children have the opportunity to develop the best use of their hearing in order to communicate and to support their learning and development.

#### **Pupil Records**

Audiology profiles include a note of all information on the child's equipment and include:

- A running record of the pupil giving details of age aided and any changes to pupil's hearing and subsequent changes to type of hearing aids/ cochlear implants to date
- The child's most recent audiogram
- Details of hearing aid/cochlear implant make, model, programmes and settings
- Details of radio aid make and the type of shoes and leads
- Earmould type and any modification to the mould or elbow (e.g. vent or damper)

#### **Hearing Aid Review Appointments**

The children have annual reviews of their hearing aids at The Royal Berkshire Hospital. Children with cochlear implants attend their implant centre on a regular basis. Lists or review appointments are circulated by the hospitals or the cochlear implant Teacher of the Deaf and are noted to ensure that:

- Parents are reminded of the appointment
- Teachers of the Deaf are given the opportunity to attend review appointments
- Hearing Aid review forms are completed by the Teacher of the Deaf and given to the parents to take to the appointment
- Records are amended following hearing aid/ cochlear implant reviews

#### **Systematic Checks of Equipment**

Hearing aids are checked by the Support Assistant or Teacher of the Deaf on a twice daily basis and records kept of these checks. Attenuators are used with high powered aids to enable checking at user volume setting. Checks are made of the following:

- Volume setting
- Programme setting
- Casing and switches
- Elbow for cracks or debris
- Earmoulds and tubing for cracks, moisture or blockage
- Tubing for discolouration
- Batteries in the right way
- Cleanliness of the battery compartment
- Listening to the hearing aid using a stetoclip and attenuator to check sound quality
- Squeeze casing whilst listening to check for intermittent faults

*If having done this a problem is identified, the hospital audiology department will be informed as a matter of urgency.*

### **Cochlear Implant Checks**

- Check the switches and controls are on the settings advised by the cochlear implant centre
- Check the batteries are the approved type
- Check the batteries are fitted correctly
- Check that the battery contacts are clean and do not show any signs of rust
- Check that the leads/ coil are not damaged
- Check the function of the microphone/ speech processor through the listening earphones
- Assess the sound quality
- Check the transmission of the coil using a signal check device

*If having done this a problem is identified, the cochlear implant centre will be informed as a matter of urgency.*

### **Radio Aid Checks**

- Check battery status
- Check microphone
- Check frequency

### **Combined Hearing Aid/ Cochlear Implant/Radio Aid Check**

- Check frequency (the receiver and transmitter must be the same)
- Check leads and connections
- Listen to radio aid alone
- Fix connecting lead onto hearing aid or cochlear implant and listen in
- Check integrity of system by speaking into transmitter at least 4 metres from the listener

The Resource keeps a supply of spares. Yearly orders are made of audiological equipment to ensure the children are always catered for. The children are encouraged to manage their own audiological equipment from an early age. For the younger deaf children this means praising any attempts to change batteries or insert moulds without help. As children become older they are encouraged to take responsibility of their equipment. Often this becomes part of their IEP targets.

### **Testing of Equipment**

The hearing aids/ cochlear implants are put through a test box every term. The radio aids are balanced with the hearing aids/cochlear implants and records kept. A technician from PC Werth comes in twice a year to help with the testing of the equipment and to offer advice and support when needed. The schools are also supported by a local Educational Audiologist when required.

January 2012