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**Important advice to parents and schools with hearing impaired pupils**

Hearing aids, cochlear implants, bone conduction aids and radio aids are all important for our hearing impaired children’s access to speech and learning. The Sandwell Sensory Support Team have provided the following information to support you in the care and maintenance of listening devices. If you would like to talk about individual situations please feel free to contact ss\_parents@sandwell.gov.uk or michelle\_croucher@sandwell.gov.uk or your own teacher of the deaf and we will be happy to help.

**Wash your hands before and after handling listening devices.**

**Hearing Aids/Cochlear Implants/BAHA**

Families

* Every morning, ensure devices are fully charged or insert new disposable batteries
* Every morning, complete a visual check on the device (tubing, casing)
* Encourage your child to manage their own equipment.

School Staff

* Use good deaf awareness strategies – seating position facing/or near to the teacher to allow best access to hear and lip read (under current advice we are not expecting staff to be wearing face masks)
* Be aware that removing furniture/soft furnishings from the room will change the acoustics and make listening more difficult
* Some children/young people may need support reinserting moulds or placing listening devices. Please discuss with families how this will be managed with regards to the current advice on social distancing and hygiene
* When devices are not working or not being worn, children/young people will miss what is said especially if you turn away or are more than 2 metres away

**Using a Radio Aid/Wireless Microphone**

* Clean the Radio Aid between uses
* Be careful not to over wipe or make the microphones wet as this will muffle or distort the sound making it unusable (see images below – avoid red areas)
* Wipe the lanyard or have more than one, and wash/sanitize your hands

