

Surrey Physical and Sensory Support

Radio Aid Policy

Recognition has been given to the best practice within the NDCS Quality Standards for the use of radio aids (February 2017) when drawing up this document.

How do you decide who will receive a Radio Aid ?

Surrey's Physical and Sensory Support Educational Audiology Team will consider **all** children and young people with a clinically diagnosed, permanent hearing loss for provision of a radio aid. Consultation with parents, professionals and the child or young person will take place before any system is allocated. The allocation will depend on the outcome from a body of assessments and observations which provide evidence based information to ensure that the system would be helpful for the child or young person (CYP). These assessments will include the Radio Aid CHIP assessment for children and young people with cochlear implants and an adapted version for use with children and young people who are hearing aid users (Appendix A), along with evidence of speech discrimination assessments.

The radio aid will be considered when a CYP is a reliable user of their hearing aid/cochlear implant and, where appropriate, that they are able to understand the effect of using the radio aid. This will be consistently reviewed by the ATHI who will work closely with the CYP to become 'Radio Aid ready'.

How will you check that a radio aid is right for a child or young person?

When a child or young person (CYP) is allocated a radio aid you can expect the following procedure:

1. The radio aid will initially be loaned for a period not exceeding 6 months (the equivalent of 2 school terms). An assessment will be carried out to establish their listening experience without a radio aid.
2. Training for the use and monitoring of this equipment is provided by PSS at the start of the loan period and all staff working with the CYP will be expected to attend.
3. At the end of this initial trial period a review will be held to look at areas such as academic progress; social interaction and access to peers and sense of self; as well as feedback from the family and the education setting. An assessment will be carried out to establish their listening experience with a radio aid.
4. A successful initial loan period will result in extended provision of the radio aid. (Refer to the 'Top Tips for looking after your radio aid' information leaflet)

Which radio aid will be loaned?

We will consult with other professionals working with the child or young person to ensure the most appropriate system has been issued.

Whilst ensuring we remain up to date with current technology, we also ensure that the systems we loan are robust and efficient.

This may mean that a more established system is provided rather than the newest release. Please see our information leaflet for the latest radio aid equipment supplied by PSS.

What happens if the radio aid is broken or lost?

Radio Aids are expensive pieces of technology. Whilst we do understand that accidents happen, we ask that all reasonable care is taken of the equipment.

Any breakages or loss should be reported to PSS at the first opportunity. We may not be able to replace the system with exactly the same equipment, but it will always be a suitable and appropriate for the CYP's needs.

Can the Radio Aid be used at home or out of school?

Yes it may be taken out of school with agreement with PSS and the educational setting, but it must always be returned to your CYP's educational setting, charged and ready to use each day they are in attendance.

If you wish to take the Radio Aid on holiday or a school trip, please speak to PSS beforehand.

What happens if I buy my own Radio Aid or have one on loan from another organisation?

Families and school settings can purchase equipment privately, or borrow one from another organisation, however, the provider will need to be responsible training staff, monitoring and maintaining the equipment. Any queries would go directly to the provider and not to PSS.

The obligation of PSS remains with the up keep of Surrey-provided equipment; working with privately purchased equipment goes beyond the parameters of Surrey's policy.

Soundfield Systems

Soundfield systems are the responsibility of the education setting to purchase. PSS can inform you of a range of manufacturers and suppliers who can offer advice regarding soundfields. PSS are also happy to provide information of systems that can be used in conjunction with the radio aids being used.

What happens if my child attends a school out of county?

PSS is responsible for loaning radio aid equipment for CYP who have it written into their Surrey EHCP (or equivalent). Training to staff would need to take place at the point of provision. In recognition of the importance of the equipment, a member of the Educational Audiology team will make at least 2 visits per year to check the equipment.

Alternative arrangements would need to be discussed for CYP's attending educational settings that are a great distance from Surrey.

For CYPs without a Surrey EHCP and attending an out of county school, provision for equipment will need to be arranged through the authority's Local Offer as outlined under the code of practice.