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A message to School SENCOs from the Hearing Impairment Team during the Covid-19 pandemic

This message is for mainstream school SENCOs who have on roll a child with a hearing impairment and who were being supported by an Advisory Teacher for Hearing (Susan Gray, Carole Smart, Julie Watson or Sara Wright) prior to the lockdown/ school closures.

- Parents with children with disabilities are likely to have even greater concern for their child's wellbeing during the current pandemic. Please consider contacting them to find out how they are coping and how they are finding the level and type of work being provided/ set by teachers. Agree a review date to call again to check again how it's going.
- Some families will find the demands of caring for their hearing impaired child at home 24-7 extremely challenging particularly if they are the sole carer, if they are looking after other children, are self-isolating or unwell. Please consider ringing them to check they have the help they need.

Important messages regarding equipment:

- Personal radio systems should have been sent home as requested following the announcement of school closures: using the audio lead to connect the radio system's transmitter to a computer or other device enables the children to access streamed content comfortably. It also ensures the entire household does not hear the streamed content because the volume is too high.
- All video content should have subtitles activated.
- Please consider contacting parents to remind them how to use the radio systems and that these systems need to be returned, fully charged, when the child returns to school.



- Please direct parents to their Advisory Teacher for Hearing for detailed guidance concerning radio aid use, hearing aid or cochlear implant care and maintenance.
- For hearing aid users, Audiology departments are open and parents can request spare batteries, replacement hearing aids or to request new tubing or ear moulds. Parents can contact the department by phoning 01332 785663 (Derby) or 0115 948 5591 (Nottingham) between 08:30 and 16:00 hrs.
- For cochlear implant users, any replacement parts required can be requested in the usual way by contacting the manufacturer using the numbers parents have been provided with.

If you have any concerns or queries about a child with hearing impairment in your school you can contact the team in the usual way by email or by phone directly to the worker alternatively contact us on stepsadmin@derby.gov.uk or 01332 641400.