

## Radio Aid Systems

### **What is a radio aid?**

A radio aid is made up of two parts:

- ✚ A **transmitter** worn by the speaker / teacher
- ✚ **Receiver(s)** worn by the child

A microphone in the transmitter picks up the speaker's voice and relays it via radio waves to the child's receiver. This is attached to the child's hearing aids.

### **Why use a radio aid?**

Radio aids help to alleviate some of the problems experienced by hearing aid wearers in unfavourable listening conditions i.e.

#### ✚ **Distance between speaker and child.**

A radio aid transmits the speaker's voice directly to the child and so maintains consistent listening levels across varying distances.

#### ✚ **The effects of background noise**

In noisy environments it is difficult for the child to discriminate between wanted and unwanted sounds. When the microphone of the radio aid is worn about six to eight inches from the speaker's mouth, it allows the child to hear speech more clearly than the noise.

#### ✚ **The effects of reverberation**

Reverberation is the echoing of sound as it bounces off the hard surfaces in a room. This can make listening more difficult for hearing impaired children. A radio aid helps to improve the signal-to-noise ratio by enhancing the desired sounds e.g. speech rather than unwanted noise.

**When using the radio aid, remember to....**

- make sure the microphone / transmitter is switched on
- wear the microphone 6 to 8 inches from the mouth
- switch it off when you do not wish to be overheard
- avoid personal jewellery or objects hitting the microphone and making noises
- pass it around the class in class discussions
- place it in the centre (on the correct setting) for group discussions.
- Remember not to shout into the microphone!