Ten Top Tips for mainstream teachers using a Radio Aid transmitter in the classroom

1. Switch the transmitter on when talking to the whole class or group in which the deaf child is taking part.
2. Remember to switch the transmitter off if you or the child leaves the room - otherwise the child will still be able to hear you or there may be interference as the receivers try to ‘find’ the transmitter.
3. Help the child to choose an appropriate place to sit without unnecessary disturbances or distractions.
4. If using a soundfield system along with the Radio Aid, make sure both are working and that they are connected to each other.
5. Test the range of the Radio Aid system with the child so you can be sure that they can always hear you and so that you are aware of any limitations in your classroom.
6. Switch the Radio Aid off (or mute the microphone/transmitter) if you go to speak to a group of other children which does not include the deaf child, or when having a conversation that the deaf pupil doesn’t need to hear (the signal can travel some distance and even through walls), when going on a comfort break or when leaving the classroom.
7. Avoid standing in a noisy place, close to any noisy equipment or near an open window, as the microphone can pick up background noise and transmit this to the deaf child.
8. Avoid letting the microphone knock against your clothing or jewellery as this will create noise through the system. This can affect the child's listening skills if it happens often. They stop listening and the effectiveness of the system diminishes.
9. Remember to put equipment on charge at the end of the day, even if it has not been used for every session that day. It is more effective to charge equipment routinely every night rather than ‘only when it needs to be’. This could also result in it not being charged ready for the morning or running out of power in the middle of the day!
10. Remember not to go home wearing the Radio Aid transmitter (it’s surprisingly easy to do!).

(Adapted by Helen Maiden, Educational Audiologist, from the NDCS booklet - ‘How Radio Aids can help - A guide for families’ )