

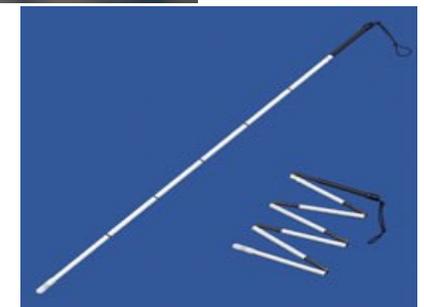
VI Team

Base	Staff
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We can produce this document in Braille, large print, on audio tape and in other languages. If you would like a copy in one of these formats, please call 01452 426955.

Team for Visual Impairment

Information and advice for
parents and carers, schools and settings



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Lead Advisory Teacher

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Advisory Teaching Service



Who are we?

We are a team of specialist staff who work with children and young people who have a range of visual impairments.

The team includes:

- Qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired and MSI/Deafblind
- Mobility and Independence Specialist in Education
- Resource Technician

Who do we help?

Blind and partially sighted children and young people from 0-19 years who have a visual impairment which cannot be corrected by glasses or surgery.

Parents and carers of children with visual impairment.

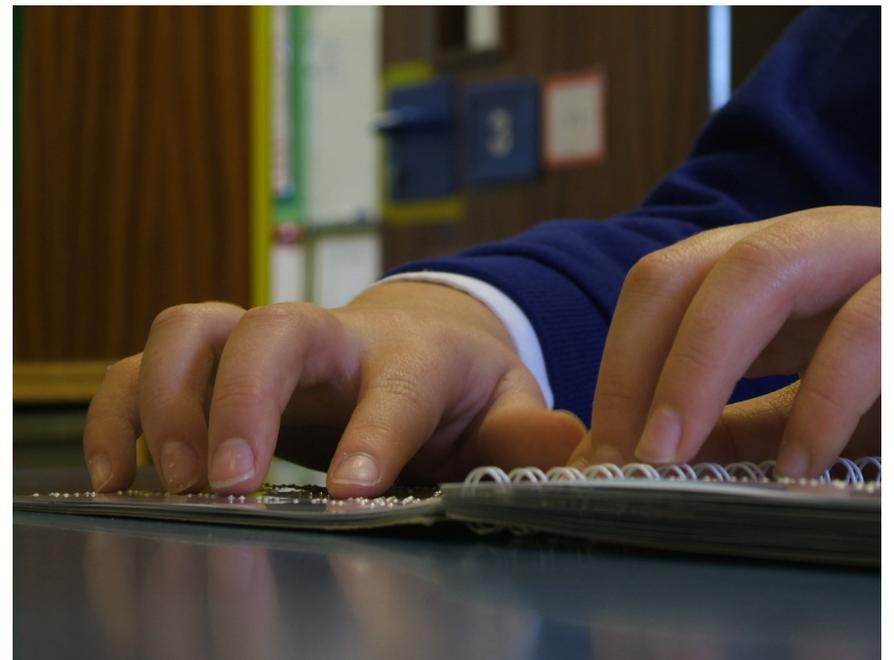
Schools and support agencies involved in the education of pupils with a visual impairment.

When can we offer support?

From the time a visual impairment is diagnosed irrespective of the child's age.

Resource Technician

The Resource Technician produces large print, Braille and tactile curriculum resources for children throughout the county.



Mobility and Independence Specialists

The Mobility and Independence Specialist becomes involved at the request of the Advisory Teacher. She works with children with severe visual impairment to develop mobility skills, the use of a symbol or long cane and independent living skills.



Aims

The Service aims to:

1. Provide a range of specialist support for children and young people with visual impairment
2. Enable each child to maximise their educational opportunities by using their abilities and capabilities to the full
3. Monitor, review and evaluate the ongoing needs of every visually impaired child supported
4. Enable each child to develop socially and emotionally thus facilitating their independence and self reliance
5. Facilitate professional liaison with those individuals supporting the child to maximise the benefits of their support
6. Work as partners with parents and carers to increase awareness and understanding of the child's needs
7. Ensure that individuals working with a child with visual impairment understand the effects and implications of the child's visual differences and the specific needs which may result from visual impairment



How can we help?

- Advice and support for multi-disabled visually impaired pupils attending maintained special schools.
- Advice to parents/carers
- Guidance about educational placement
- Support for preschool children including help with early learning skills
- A range of educational and functional visual assessments
- Professional support for children and young people attending mainstream schools
- Training for staff working with children and young people with visual impairment
- Help with developing the child's mobility and independence skills
- Training in the use of Low Vision Aids
- Advice and guidance on developing the child's information and communication technology skills
- Assessment of the need for specialist software
- The loan of specialist resources and the adaptation of educational materials, i.e. Braille, large print books and tactile materials

Referrals

Referrals are usually received from Ophthalmologists but referrals can be made through the SEN Early Start Project for early years children or by using the Advisory Teaching Service referral form for school age children.

Roles within the Visual Impairment Team

Specialist Advisory Teachers

The Advisory Teachers work with children and young people aged 0-19 who experience significant visual impairment.

The Advisory Teachers provide support and advice

- at home, for very young children
- in early years settings
- in mainstream settings
- in special schools

Assistive Technology

The Advisory Teacher can advise on appropriate Assistive Technology for those children and young people who have severe visual impairment. The Advisory Teacher will provide information on suitable specialist equipment and software providers.

