

Vision Support Team Parent Information

Vision
Support Team



The Vision Support Team will enable progress, achievement and social inclusion for your child with vision loss

Who are the Vision Support Team?

- We are one of the Birmingham City Council SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) support services, supporting children and young people with vision loss.
- We consist of specialist Qualified Teachers of Vision Impairment, specialist Teaching Assistants, Habilitation Officers (mobility and life skills), specialist IT Technicians and Reprographics Officer (Braille and Large Print).

Who can refer children for support from the team?

- We receive referrals from Ophthalmologists, Optometrists, Opticians, schools and settings, other professionals and parents.

Which children and young people do we support?

- We support children and young people from 0 to 25 years with a diagnosed vision loss (a vision loss that cannot be corrected by the wearing of glasses or contact lenses)

Where do you visit children and young people?

- We can visit your child at home if they are pre-school and in their education setting- nursery, primary and secondary school and college.

How will you support my child?

- When we first meet your child, we will check their vision so that we know how they are using their vision. We do this by using different assessments that can tell us things like how far your child can see, how close they can see, what their colour vision is like.
- We can then use this information to give you, your child and your child's setting advice and strategies on how best to support their vision to make sure that they can access their learning and be fully included in their setting and community.

How will you support me as a parent/carer?

- We will work with you to support you and your child and make you feel more confident to advocate for your child,
- We will keep in touch with you so that we can work together to support your child's access to their learning and ensure they are fully included into all school/setting life. We do this in partnership with schools, settings and health professionals.
- We will advise you on how best to support your child's vision loss at home and in school/setting
- We will support you with your child's move into education and transfer between settings as they progress through school life.

How will you support my child's education setting?

- We will visit your child in their education setting, chat with them about how things are going, observe them in class, assess their vision, meet with their teachers and the Special Education Needs Co-ordinator.
- We will share information about your child's visual condition with staff and provide strategies to support your child in all aspects of school life.

- We will explain your child's vision loss to staff and how it may affect access to learning.
- We will focus on developing your child's skills development, if appropriate, such as teaching your child how to touch-type or how to use specialist equipment independently.
- We will advise on the most suitable equipment and resources for your child to use to access the curriculum such as laptop, iPad, electronic magnifier, enlarged lesson resources.
- We will work together with staff to assess your child's individual needs and set appropriate targets to help your child to make progress.
- We will carry out Environmental Audits to check on visual access and safety.
- We will give advice in specialist reports and share them with you, the school, and other professionals if required.
- We will share information about local support groups and voluntary agencies.
- When the time comes, we will support your child through the transition process from one school/setting to the next.

Do you work with other professionals to help my child?

- We work with other professionals including Ophthalmologists and various Health teams.

How often will support be offered?

- This will depend on:
 - Level of vision loss
 - How much the vision loss is affecting your child
 - If your child is about to start or change school
 - If your child has other difficulties
- How often your child is supported will be reviewed regularly and will change if needed.

What contact will I have with staff from the Vision Support Team?

- Your Qualified Teacher of Vision Impairment, specialist Teaching Assistant and Habilitation Officer (where required) will keep in touch with you by phone, email, virtual calls and in person.
- You will also be able to contact them if you have questions, concerns or need some advice.

Vision Support Team

Sensory and Physical Difficulties Support

Birmingham City Council

PO Box 17843, Birmingham, B2 2JR

Email: ssparentenquiry@birmingham.gov.uk

Further information for families of children and young people with vision loss can be found on the

Birmingham Local Offer website:

https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/send_support_services_menu/sensory-support-vision/