



SENSORY IMPAIRMENT TEAM

Information and support following a diagnosis of a vision impairment

VISION IMPAIRMENT TEAM

Who are we?

The vision impairment team consists of:

- Specialist teachers with additional qualifications in vision impairment — called qualified teachers for children with a vision impairment (**QTVIs**)
- Habilitation Specialist teaching independent living skills and mobility
- Experienced Specialist Practitioners with additional qualifications in VI and Braille

Partnership is a key aspect of the role. We work with families, educational settings and other professionals involved in your child's development to ensure the best opportunities for your child to fulfil their potential.

We support children from 0-25, in homes, settings and schools as well as during ophthalmology visits when appropriate.

What is a vision impairment?

A condition that cannot be corrected by glasses and which may have an impact on your child's development and/or learning.

How and when might your child be referred to a QTVI?

Referral is generally made by Ophthalmology, at the point of diagnosis or by educational professionals if they have concerns. However, we also accept referrals from parent/carers and children can be referred at any age. Referrals can be made by phone, email or post using the contact information on the back page. The earlier we can get involved, the better.

What support can you and your child expect?

Following referral, a QTVI will contact you and carry out an initial visit. We can discuss the diagnosis and its implications with you, as well as any issues and queries you may have.

Support from the team is wide ranging and will vary depending upon the degree of your child's VI.

We can:

- Provide ideas for encouraging the use of vision and other senses.
- Give ideas for early exploration and movement.
- Offer advice about future needs, such as nursery entry and transition between schools.
- Provide information about support networks, agencies and groups.
- Give help and advice with filling in relevant forms, e.g. grant applications.
- Carry out assessments to show how the VI affects your child in their own home, setting or school, and then offer ideas to minimise this.
- Give support and training to settings and schools.
- Support your child with their social skills, self- advocacy, and access.
- Teach skills like Braille, touch typing and use of specialist equipment.

Parental Feedback:

“ you have an amazing professional team...
it's been a huge learning curve for us all but (you)
navigated our journey beautifully...”

I feel assured (he) will have the best chance in life
to access his education and that means so much. ”

OTHER AGENCIES WE WORK WITH

Please see the SEND local offer for a more detailed list of support agencies for VI – www.worcestershire.gov.uk/thelocaloffer

LOOK UK – mentoring projects, events, information , support and advice for children and young people with VI and their parent/carers. www.look-uk.org

RSBC – a range of services including emotional support and practical advice for families and social opportunities for children and young people. www.rsbc.org.uk

VICTA – Activities, and grants. www.victa.org.uk

RNIB – giving people with a VI the help, support and tools they need to realise their aspirations. www.rnib.org.uk

HOW TO CONTACT US

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Website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/WCFEducationServices/homepage/2/support-services