



Vision Support Team Parent Information

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

Who are the Vision Support Team?

- The Vision Support Team is 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 do we support?

- Children and young people from 0 to 25 years with a diagnosis of a vision impairment.

What is a vision impairment?

- A vision impairment is a visual condition, diagnosed by an Ophthalmologist, where there is a reduction in the vision caused by the eye, optic nerve, visual cortex part of the brain or more than one of these, where the vision is not correctable to within normal limits by the wearing of glasses or contact lenses.

Where do we support?

- Family homes
- Early years settings
- Schools – mainstream and special
- Colleges

Do you work with other professionals to help my child?

- Yes – we work closely with health professionals including ophthalmologist and optometrists.

Who can refer children for support from the team?

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

What support do we offer?

- Help to understand your child's vision loss and how it affects your child
- Support with low-vision aids
- Emotional support for you and your child
- Training to adults working with your child
- Support around starting or changing nursery or school
- Assessment of your child's functional vision
- Setting goals
- Written guidance on how best to support your child
- Working with other professionals who support your child

- In-class observations
- Individual teaching sessions
- Understanding their own vision loss (for older children)
- Opportunities for children with vision loss to meet other children with vision loss
- We will share information about local support groups and voluntary agencies.

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 the Vision Impaired and specialist Teaching Assistant (where required) will keep in touch with you by phone, email, virtual calls and in person, depending on what is required.
- You will also be able to contact them if you have questions, concerns or need some advice.

Who can refer my child for support?

- Ophthalmologists and Orthoptists at the hospital – most referrals come from hospitals
- Parents/carers
- School or nursery staff
- Health visitors
- Other professionals

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, which may change as your child gets older and the impact of the curriculum changes
 - if your child is about to start school or change school or setting
 - If your child has other difficulties
- How often your child is supported will be reviewed regularly and will change if needed

Vision Support Team

Sensory and Physical Difficulties Support Service

Birmingham City Council

PO Box 17843, Birmingham, B2 2JR

Email: ssparentenquiry@birmingham.gov.uk

Further information, including how to refer for support can be found on the Birmingham Local Offer website:

[Vision Support Team - Local Offer Birmingham](#)
