

**Contact Virtual School and Inclusion - Disability
Service at:**

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*If you require this leaflet in another format / font or language
please contact us.*

**Support Services for Disabled Children
and their Families**

Learning Skills and Culture
Access and Inclusion
Children's Disability Service



Guide to
Vision Support Team

Our purpose

The Vision Support Team support Children and Young People with visual impairment and their families from birth, targeting assessed and identified need to ensure inclusion within the educational setting.

This is achieved through the direct teaching of specialist skills (Tactile Literacy, ICT and Habilitation) advice surrounding specialist equipment and modified work materials, the delivery of training programmes to all those working with the student, and through trans-disciplinary working with a range of other professionals to ensure social and emotional wellbeing

How to ask for our involvement

The Vision Support Team operate an open referral system, accepting referrals from any professional or family member, providing of course there is parental consent.

Contact us by telephone, letter or e-mail providing us with details of your concern, the child's name, date of birth and contact details.

An initial visit will be made by a Qualified Teacher of the Visually Impaired. Following a visual assessment, and using national criteria for involvement, we will then inform you of our next step.

In many cases, some basic recommendations are all that is required to ensure the Child or Young person has continued access to learning. Others may require specialist approaches towards teaching and learning, and will require on-going support with specialist programmes and monitoring visits.

Support provided to children, young people and families

- Support in the home for pre-school children and their families
- The delivery of specialist programmes by qualified and experienced staff
- Training for Parents, siblings and other family members as appropriate
- Monthly Support Groups for parents
- Social activities for families

Support provided to schools, settings and other agencies

- Functional Visual Assessment
- Information regarding visual conditions and their implications for learning.
- Basic recommendations regarding visual management to ensure effective and on-going access to learning
- Recommendations regarding purchase and use of specialist equipment
- Advice regarding the modification of work
- Materials and access to exams.
- The delivery of specialist teaching sessions (including Tactile Literacy, ICT and Habilitation)
- Access Audits
- Delivery of training to staff
- Support from Qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired, Specialist Support Workers and Qualified Habilitation Specialists, as deemed appropriate by ourselves