

## Requests for Involvement:

**Parents/Carers/Schools/Children's Services and Health colleagues:**  
Request for involvement forms are available from the address below.  
Requests should be co-ordinated by the school SENCO wherever possible.  
(Medical Education Team requests must come evidenced from a medical consultant). All requests must have parental consent.

## Contact Information:

**Operational manager: 01905 728931**

**AAC:** Alternative & Augmentative Communication: 01905 728923

**HI:** Hearing Impairment: 01905 728930

**MET:** Medical Education Team: 01905 765842

**MSI:** Multi-Sensory Impairments: 01905 765826

**CCD:** Complex Communication Difficulties/Autism: 01905 765830

**VI: Visual Impairments: 01905 765837**

ASK FOR THE PRINCIPAL TEACHER

## Service Mission Statement:

To help learners with a low incidence disability or medical educational need to achieve the five outcomes of being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being.

## Contact Address:

**Children's Services**  
IS-SS (Perry Wood), County Hall, Spetchley Road,  
Worcester. WR5 1ES  
Tel: 01905 765849 Fax: 01905 768290 Minicom: 01905 765820



**worcestershire**  
countycouncil



**Visual  
Impairment  
VI**

**Children's Services**  
Integrated Services - Specialist Support  
Information

## Who we are:

The team consists of:

- Specialist teachers with additional qualifications in visual impairment
- Qualified Mobility Officer with specialist training for working with children and young people
- Experienced Teaching Assistants
- Technical Support Worker

## Who we support:

We support visually impaired babies, pupils and students (0-19yrs), their families and carers.

## What is visual impairment?

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

## Criteria for involvement:

- Suspected or diagnosed visual impairment
- Any concerns regarding a child's visual functioning

## Who can request involvement?

We have an open referral policy. Requests for involvement are received from the following sources:

- Parents/carers, medical professionals, professionals within Children's Service, including nurseries and schools

## What happens next?

On receipt of a request for involvement:

- A qualified teacher of the visually impaired will respond within 15 working days
- A period of assessment will follow culminating in a written report indicating recommendations and proposed level of involvement

## What we do?

- Ongoing assessment of visual functioning
- Give advice on specific visual conditions
- Collaborative work with families, professionals and other agencies
- Promote independence by specialist mobility training and independent living skills programmes
- Encourage peer group support
- Formal/informal visual awareness training
- Support students training nationally as teachers of the visually impaired
- Promote opportunities to raise standards
- Provide written information in reports produced at least annually

## Work with parents/carers by:

- Giving early intervention in the home to develop specific skills
- Offering support and advice by giving information about other agencies, support groups, specialist toys and equipment
- Advising on school entry and phase transfer.

## Work with early years settings and schools by:

- Directly supporting visually impaired pupils
- Giving advice on best practice and classroom management
- Preparing and providing modified materials and resources
- Assessing the need for specialist equipment and technical support
- Providing specialist equipment/training for pupils and staff
- Specialist teaching of Braille, Moon and access technology
- Develop visual skills and strategies for independent learning
- Contribute to Statutory Assessment, reviews, Individual Education Plans and programmes of work
- Advise on special arrangements for external/internal tests and exams
- Training, co-ordination and deployment of teaching assistants.