

Aberdeenshire Sensory Support Service **Vision Support Service**

Educational Services for Children
& Young People with a Visual Impairment

Information for Parents/Carers & Teachers



Aberdeenshire Sensory Support Service

Vision Support Service

Aberdeenshire Sensory Support Service is a peripatetic service staffed by

- teachers who specialise in working with pupils with a visual impairment. They are also qualified primary or secondary teachers.
- technicians experienced in working with a range of technology for the visually impaired.
- auxiliaries experienced in working with pupils with a visual impairment.

Who do we work with?

- Babies, children and young people with a visual impairment, birth until school leaving age
- Parents and carers
- Staff in schools and nurseries
- Other agencies e.g. Health, Social Work
- Voluntary organisations

When do we become involved?

- Within weeks of a diagnosis being made
- When a referral is made by a hospital specialist, a parent/carer, school or other professional



Where do we provide support?

- In the home if the child is under five
- In the nursery
- In a local authority school, mainstream or special school

What do we do?

- Assess a child's vision and then offer recommendations on how the child's needs can best be met
- Provide information, practical help, and advice
- Provide support in the use of specialist resources to promote independence
- Advise and support staff on how to promote inclusion
- Provide visual awareness sessions
- Work alongside teachers where pupils use Braille
- Organise mobility training for pupils with severe visual impairment
- Monitor a pupil's progress and provide reports
- Attend meetings to review progress and plan for the future
- Support the development of speech, language and communication skills in pupils with visual impairment

How do we do it?

- By supporting within the classroom
- By providing specialised teaching and assessment
- By working one-to-one with a pupil outwith the classroom
- By liaising closely with staff in schools and nurseries, and with other agencies
- By keeping abreast of innovations and current legislation
- By promoting professional development amongst staff

Referrals to the Vision Support Service

Parents/carers, teachers and other professionals can make referrals to the Service.

The Manager of the Service makes initial contact with parents/carers.

After parental consent has been received a member of the Vision Support Team carries out an assessment to determine how the child's needs can be met.

All referrals are treated confidentially.

For further information please contact:

Aberdeenshire Sensory Support Service
Vision Support Service
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Westhill, Aberdeenshire
AB32 6XZ

Tel: 01224 744786

Fax: 01224 743568

sensorysupportservice.education@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/parents/carers

Child Protection

In line with Authority policy, Sensory Support Service staff have a duty to share concerns regarding a child's safety with social work and/or the police. Social work and the police will determine when and how the child's parents/carers and other services are to be informed of the concerns.

If you would like the information in another format, please contact the Sensory Service Manager

