

Visual Impairment Team

What can you expect from the service area?

- Advice, guidance and INSET from the Qualified Teacher Visual Impaired (QTVI) based on individual visual needs.
- Liaison with the Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) class teachers and senior management teams.
- Support to upskill staff in providing high quality teaching and ensure that the children and young people can access the curriculum and learning.
- Advice to classroom teachers regarding the differentiation and modification of materials.
- Assessments and an environmental audit with the school's Health and Safety Officer and Bridgend's Access Officer takes place to enable schools to meet the accessibility needs of children and young people.
- Outreach support is determined using the NATSIP eligibility framework.
- Ongoing assessment of functional vision is carried out.
- Transition involves close liaison with the receiving school with extra visits.
- Individual mobility assessment and training is available from a mobility specialist.
- Special arrangements, this may include in class support, the provision of specialist Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment, training in mobility and orientation skills, the provision of appropriate text formats: tactile diagrams or Braille.

How to access our expertise

- The majority of children and young people will be known to the Visual Impairment (VI) team due to early diagnosis by health professionals. Occasionally a referral will be received from parents or the school.
- Our team of specialist QTVIs can be accessed via email or telephone.
- Parental consent is required before the VI team can become involved.
- Once a referral and parental consent has been received from a parent or school the QTVI will make contact with the school.
- Multi agency working with Health, a Consultant Ophthalmologist, family and school is key to providing advice and support.

- A referral can be made to the complex medical panel for ancillary support. If ancillary support is granted, the ancillary support is monitored by the VI team.
- QTVIs are available to meet with parents and schools.
- Progress review meetings provide the opportunity for all professionals and families to plan together.
- If a pupil has a later onset condition, schools can contact the QTVI for advice.
- VI team have links with Welsh Low Vision Scheme for the provision of Low Vision Aids.