

# Visual Impairment

The Sensory Education and Support Service

We support families, early years settings and schools to give children with visual impairments the opportunity to achieve their full potential alongside their friends.



Further information can be obtained from the Team Manager

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The Sensory Education and Support Service (SESS) includes a team of qualified teachers who are also Qualified Teachers of Visually Impaired children, an Educational Rehabilitation and Mobility Officer, Resource and Technical Officer and Specialist Sensory Support Teaching Assistants who have been trained to support children with visual impairments of all ages, in a variety of settings. The team provides specialist advice and support to parents, early years staff and teachers and works with other professionals, including medical staff, voluntary agencies and governors etc. across Lincolnshire.

## What do we do?

**We support pre-school children at home and in early years settings** monitoring and promoting the development of functional vision by providing on-going advice to parents on what toys, equipment and strategies to use to stimulate vision or to develop tactile (touch) abilities. We can also advise and support early years staff so that they can provide a stimulating environment and appropriate activities for the child.

**We support primary and secondary school children planning** for the child's transition into the school setting with parents and teachers. This may involve advising the school about safety and any modifications that need to be made to the premises, and providing extra opportunities for the child to become familiar with the school environment.



## Our continuing support includes:

- carrying out functional vision tests and interpreting and explaining the results to parents, the special educational needs coordinator, class teacher and other professionals
- liaising with and advising staff about classroom management, alterations to text/materials and curriculum access
- providing teaching programmes for Braille, touch typing and use of magnification and screen reading software to meet individual children's needs
- supporting and advising any support staff working with the child
- providing mobility training, including long cane, for children with severe sight impairment
- providing ongoing assessments, reports and advice for schools and parents
- attending reviews and all associated meetings
- providing visual impairment awareness training for peer groups in school
- advising on any necessary specialist equipment and demonstrating its best and safe use to enable the child full and equal access to the curriculum
- providing training courses on school premises, or at named venues, for teachers, assistants, special needs coordinators, headteachers etc.
- liaising with other Local Authority Agencies and also with voluntary organisations