

## Who else can help ?

Schools have access to a range of professionals who advise on arrangements for supporting pupils with visual impairment.

These include:

- Support Service for Visual Impairment
- The Educational Psychology Service
- The Local Inclusion Officer Service

If your child has other difficulties as well as visual impairment, all schools have access to County services which can offer support and advice for pupils with:

- hearing and/or physical difficulties
- learning difficulties
- behaviour difficulties
- autistic spectrum difficulties

You or your child's teacher (with your permission) can ask a speech and language therapist to see your child.

Your GP can make a referral for physiotherapy and occupational therapy, and will also advise on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and voluntary services such as Barnardos.

## What other advice is available ?

Derbyshire has published comprehensive files of advice and information on dyslexia, autism and speech and language difficulties.

## Contact Details

Support Service for Visual Impairment  
County Support Services Centre  
Brookside Rd  
Breadsall  
DE21 5LF  
01332 835374

Local Inclusion Officer Service  
Chesterfield Area Education Office  
Sheffield Road  
Chesterfield S41 7LU  
01246 204851

Derbyshire Parent Partnership  
The Community Centre  
School Board Lane  
Chesterfield S40 1DD  
Tel: 01246 273154/5

The full version of the SEN Descriptors is available in every school or through the Derbyshire website

**[www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)**

Follow links through to Education  
→ Special Educational Needs  
→ Local Inclusion Officer Service  
→ The Derbyshire Descriptors

If you require this and other Local Inclusion Officer Service leaflets in large print or another format, please contact Head of LIO Service.

# My Child Has a Visual Impairment



# Guidance for Parents and Carers about Help in School

Schools have a responsibility to make provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN).

The Local Authority provides funding through normal school budgets to help schools to support pupils with special educational needs.

Derbyshire Local Authority has produced

### **The Derbyshire Descriptors of SEN Provision**

The Descriptors offer guidance and advice to primary and secondary schools about the level and type of support they should provide for pupils with additional needs. They are used by the Local Authority to monitor provision for pupils with SEN without a statement.

They outline how schools should:

- Assess, plan and review provision
- Arrange teaching groups
- Adjust the curriculum and teaching methods
- Provide resources, such as access to additional support from a Teaching Assistant for up to 3 hours per week for pupils at School Action or up to 8 hours a week for pupils at School Action Plus

### **Your child may:-**

- Have poor visual acuity or ability to see fine detail, eg 6/12 to 6/18 or worse
- Have visual field loss, eg reduced sight around the edges of vision
- Have ocular motor difficulties, eg problems tracking a moving object smoothly
- Have involuntary eye movements (nystagmus)
- Have difficulties where patching the eye is significantly reducing their vision
- Have a degenerative condition where the present impairment is slight but likely to get worse
- Have visual perception difficulties eg the ability to give meaning and understanding to what has been seen
- Have difficulties in using school equipment and may therefore need access to some specialist equipment and training to use it
- Need to be encouraged to be part of friendship groups within their school/ year

### **What can school do ?**

- Discuss your child with the specialist teacher from the Support Service for Visual Impairment and use their advice to establish what your child can and can't do, and use this advice for planning
- Discuss your child with any other relevant professionals who visit the school and with you
- Find out what teaching and learning style suits your child best
- Arrange for your child to have some additional support either individually or in smaller teaching groups with a teaching assistant
- Help your child by providing specialist equipment and teaching materials and allow time to learn how to use it
- Prepare modified materials to help your child learn and to help your child become independent
- Adapt the classroom and school environment if required. Consider your child's seating arrangement in class
- Provide small group situations to allow for mixing with other children and making friends
- Involve you and your child in planning and review of progress