

The Role of the Team

The Sensory Needs Team (Vision) promotes better outcomes for CYP with a vision impairment which include:

educational attainment,
social and emotional well being,
mobility and independence skills

by providing a comprehensive and flexible system of support to CYP, families and educational providers.

The team provides help and information about vision impairment and the impact it has on children's learning and development.

The team supports children and their families from diagnosis to age 16 in their homes, nurseries and schools.



The Sensory Needs Team (Vision) is part of Bury Council's SEND, Inclusion and Integrated Youth Support Service.

The SNT (Vision) aims to deliver an integrated service in partnership with:

- Sensory Needs Team (Hearing)
- Additional Needs Team
- Special Educational Needs Team
- Health Professionals
- Children's Services Social Care

Sensory Needs Team

3 Knowsley Place
Duke Street
Bury
BL9 0EJ

Telephone: 0161 253 7159
Email: j.hopkinson@bury.gov.uk

Bury Council
Children's

Sensory
Needs
Team
Vision



Tel. 0161 253 7159

The Team

The Sensory Needs Team is made up of 4 qualified teachers of the visually impaired, 4 specialist support workers and a specialist habilitation officer.

Support for Children



The team supports children with a vision impairment from the point of diagnosis until they leave school. This is usually at the age of sixteen.

The type and level of support each child receives varies according to their individual needs.

Support for children may include:

- individual or small group teaching;
- provision of specialist equipment and modified learning materials;
- provision of specialist skills training - touch typing, mobility, Braille;
- additional support during examinations and at times of transition.

Support for Families

The team aims to empower families to make informed choices on behalf of their children.

The team provides information about all aspects of vision impairment and its impact on children's language, educational, social and emotional development.

The team supports families to:

- understand the implications of a vision impairment;
- help their child make full use of their residual vision;
- consider all available options when choosing schools for their children;
- apply for benefits and services;
- make contact with other families to share experiences and ideas;
- access a range of information and services available from regional and national organisations both statutory and voluntary.

Support for Schools



The majority of children with a vision impairment attend their local mainstream schools.

A small number of children attend special schools.

The team works in partnership with schools.

Children with a vision impairment will be visited at home or in their educational placement by a member of the SNT (Vision) either in a monitoring or a direct teaching role.

The team works in partnership with schools to help them include pupils with a vision impairment in all aspects of school life.

Support may include:

- providing information and training for mainstream staff;
- supporting teaching both in class and on an individual basis;
- contributing to the assessment and monitoring of pupil progress;
- providing and maintaining specialist equipment;
- providing advice about access arrangements for all examinations.