



Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL

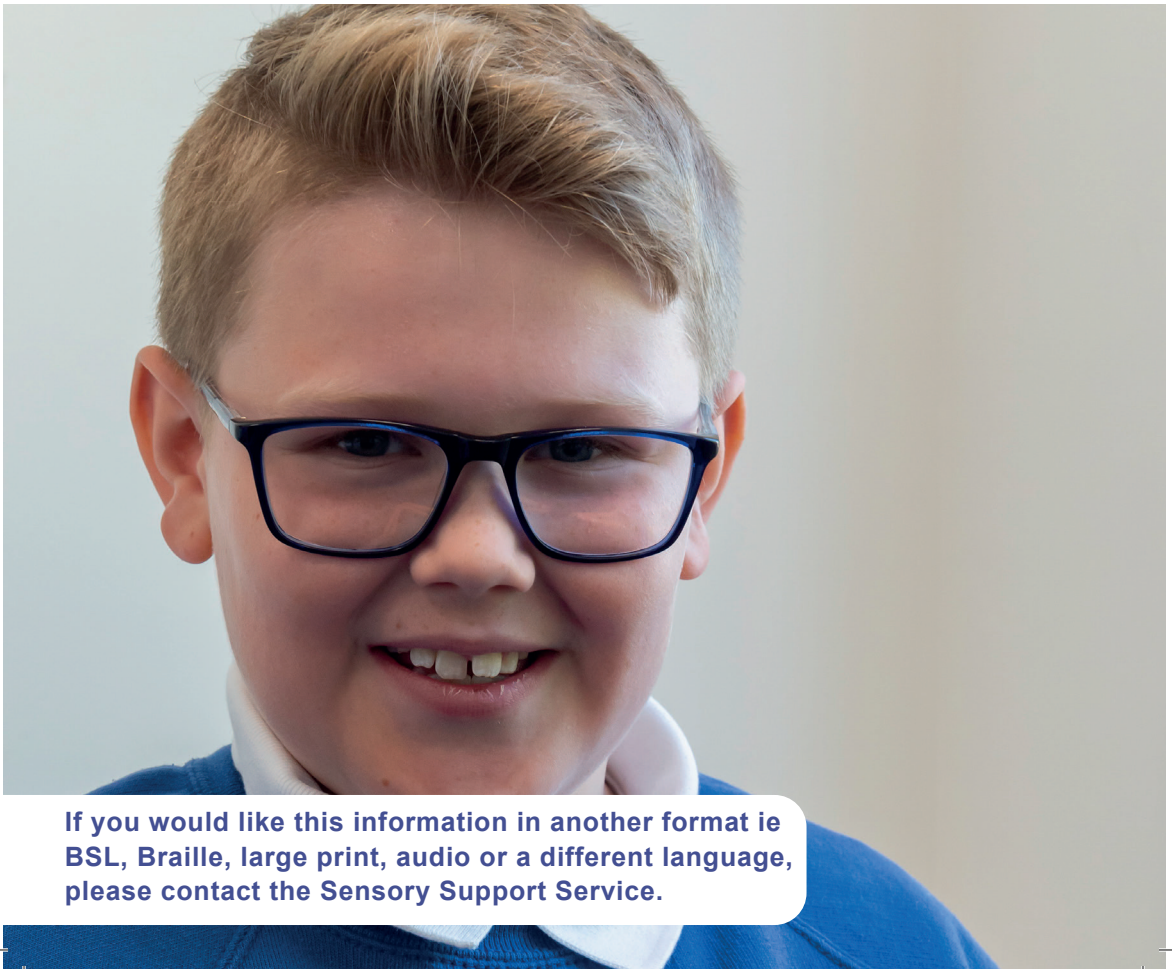


From mountain to sea

Vision Support

Aberdeenshire Sensory Support Service

Educational Services for Children
& Young People with a Visual Impairment



If you would like this information in another format ie BSL, Braille, large print, audio or a different language, please contact the Sensory Support Service.

Vision Support

Aberdeenshire Sensory Support Service

Aberdeenshire Sensory Support Service is a peripatetic service staffed by

- teachers who specialise in working with children and young people who have a visual impairment. They are also qualified primary or secondary teachers
- communicators who produce Braille, large print and audio formats to allow learners to access the curriculum

Who do we work with?

- babies, children and young people with a confirmed medical diagnosis of visual impairment, from birth to school leaving age
- parents/carers and families
- staff in schools and nurseries
- other agencies e.g. Health, Social Work
- Third sector organisations



Where do we provide support?

- in the home if the child is under three
- in nurseries and playgroups
- in any local authority 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
- provide visual awareness sessions
- work alongside teachers where learners use Braille and specialist technology
- organise mobility training for learners with severe visual impairment
- monitor a learner's progress and provide reports
- attend meetings to review progress and plan for the future
- keep records while the child/ young person is being supported by the service and, in line with legislation, for 7 years thereafter

How do we do it?

- by supporting within the classroom
- by providing specialised teaching and assessment
- by providing targeted teaching, where appropriate
- by keeping abreast of innovations and current legislation
- by promoting professional development amongst staff
- by raising awareness of what it means to have a visual impairment
- by liaising closely with partners, including parents/carers
- by encouraging high expectations of our learners
- by contributing to pupil plans and risk assessments
- by sharing appropriate information with partner agencies

Referrals to the Vision Support Service

A referral can be made at any time by a parent/carer, Education or partner agency.

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 information concerning children/young people referred to the service is treated in strictest confidence.

For further information please contact:

Aberdeenshire Sensory Support Service
Vision Support Service
Westhill Academy, Hay's Way
Westhill, Aberdeenshire
AB32 6XZ
Tel: 01467 539515

Email: sensorysupportservice.education@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/additional-support-needs/sensory-support-services/>

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.