

The Vision and Hearing Team is part of the Portsmouth Inclusion Service.

It is comprised of Specialist Teacher Advisers, Communicators, qualified Habilitation Specialist (VI) and a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (VI).

We work with children and young people with hearing impairment, visual impairment or multi-sensory impairment from 0 – 25 years of age, at home, in pre-school settings, schools and colleges.

Who can access the service?

We support hearing and visually impaired children and young people from birth up to the age of 25. Young people over 16 need to be in in full time college education or an approved apprenticeship.

For hearing impairment there must be a diagnosis (referrals usually come from Audiologists).

Any child or young person with a diagnosed or suspected visual impairment can be referred by anyone, e.g. parent, setting or other professional.

For more information on what the team can provide please visit the local offer:

portsmouthlocaloffer.org/services/vision-and-hearing-team

What the organisation provides: types of interventions and support

We are a needs-led team that work with our children and young people and their families in the following ways.

- The level of support offered to each child and family is based on their child's visual and hearing needs, their stage of development and the knowledge and support that the family have around them.
- We work from birth, helping the child develop their vision and hearing skills.
- We work alongside medical professionals and other agencies to provide information about the nature of the sensory impairment and how it may affect daily life and learning. We offer strategies and advice to assist them.
- We work in partnership with parents and carers to provide ongoing support throughout the child's education from early years to college.
- Providing ongoing advice and support to teaching staff on access to the curriculum, accessibility arrangements, reasonable adjustments, target setting and record keeping.
- Where appropriate, providing direct teaching to children working on specific skills (e.g. Braille, developing listening and language, ICT skills) and delivering programmes to support the pupil's understanding of their condition and building their self-esteem

- We use observation, discussion and functional assessments of the pupil in the setting and write reports and records of contact which can include recommendations for support and interventions
- We can deliver specialist training to mainstream and special school/college staff so they understand how best to support the child or young person
- Provide training on the use of equipment and maintenance of equipment
- Support transition to and between schools and colleges
- Our qualified Habilitation Specialist works specifically with children and young people who are blind or have a visual impairment on developing mobility, orientation and independent living skills. Work is carried out in homes, learning settings and the community (e.g, public transport) as appropriate. With very young children our Habilitation Specialist supports children's early movement and development

You can get in touch directly with the Vision and Hearing Team by calling **02392 688 612** or by emailing **sensoryimpairmentteam@portsmouthcc.gov.uk**



You can get this information in large print, Braille, audio or in another language by calling 023 9283 4676