

## Points which suggest an eye problem:

- Rubs eyes excessively, complains of eye pains or itching
- Shuts or covers one eye
- Tilts or thrusts head forward
- Seems over-sensitive to light/glare
- Squints, blinks or frowns when doing close work
- Holds reading material too close, distant or at a strange angle
- Complains of blurred/double vision
- Reverses letters, syllables, words or drawings
- Confuses 'like' items or letters when matching
- Misses out bits of words on the page when reading/writing
- Slower than expected at tasks even when understands what to do.
- Undue fatigue when reading
- Poor hand/eye co-ordination
- Quick to bump into things or trip up.

## Links with other agencies

The service has formal links with Children and Families Officers from Visual Impairment Services Highland and the Eye Clinic at Raigmore Hospital.

We work in partnership with associated health professionals and educational psychologists.

We link with specialist schools throughout the country for advice, when necessary.

## How do I contact the service?

Highland Education Vision Support Service  
38 Ardconnel Street  
INVERNESS IV2 3EX

Tel: 01463 226062

This leaflet can be made available in other formats and languages on request.

The Highland Council  
Education, Culture and  
Sport Service



Highland  
Education  
Vision Support  
Service  
(H.E.V.S.S.)

Information  
for Parents, Carers,  
Families, Children and  
Young People

## Who does the service work with?

Highland Council staff work in partnership with parents/carers to ensure that the needs of children are supported.

The Council promotes an inclusive approach to service provision and takes account of individual needs and circumstances.

## Who is the service for?

Education Vision Support Service works with visually impaired children between the ages of 2 and 18 years of age.

The service has an educational remit to work in playgroups, nurseries and schools and to provide advice, staff training and adapted materials to ensure that the curriculum is appropriately delivered and presented.

The service is for all pupils with a visual impairment and for those pupils who have additional support needs of which a visual impairment is a contributing factor.

## What we offer:

- Functional assessment of sight in an educational setting
- Advice, support and vision awareness training for class teachers, nursery teachers and SEN staff
- Advice and support for visually impaired children and their peer groups
- Specialist teaching
- Reformatting and designing of text materials for individual children
- Transposing text into Braille
- Loan of limited range of specialist equipment and large print library books
- Training in use of specialist equipment
- Linked working practices as part of multi-disciplinary team
- Advice on specialist contacts working in the field of visual impairment
- Referral on to a Children and Families' Officer, Mobility Officer and Low Vision Aids Clinic

## How the service is offered

A teacher from the service will visit a pupil at school, on a weekly, termly or annual basis, depending on the severity of the visual impairment.

In addition, each pupil will receive an annual functional vision assessment and report which sets out the form of advice to schools and associated professionals, and the level of direct teaching to be carried out in order to enhance vision skills and/or to support attainment in the areas of Language, Maths and Personal and Social Development.

## Referral/Access Route

Referrals come direct from Consultant Ophthalmologist at birth but are welcome, at any time, from doctors, health professionals, schools, educational psychologists and parents.

Further information is available at [www.highlandschools-virtualib.org.uk/slpf](http://www.highlandschools-virtualib.org.uk/slpf)