



## Visual Impairment

It is estimated that there are around **25,000 children and young people up to the age of 16 in England and Wales with a visual impairment** of sufficient severity to meet the definition of special education needs.

Some indicators of visual impairment are:

- Inflamed, weepy, cloudy or bloodshot eyes.
- Squints and eyes that do not seem to be aligned and working together.
- Rapid involuntary eye movements.
- Continually blinking, rubbing or screw up of eyes.
- Discomfort in bright light.
- The child holding his or her head in an awkward position or holding a book at an unusual position.
- Frequent headaches or dizziness.
- Clumsiness, bumping into furniture.
- Poor balance.
- Difficulty in copying from the board, poor presentation skills, confusion between similarly shaped letters words.

We help in school by:

- Encouraging the child to wear their glasses, if they have them, and to keep them clean.
- Giving clear instructions and descriptions of set work.
- Using the child's name to get their attention.
- Ensuring the pupil is sat at the front of classroom with a clear view of the teacher and the board.
- Providing enlarged copies of worksheets, text books and exam papers.
- Allowing extra time to finish set tasks.
- Being aware that pupils with a visual impairment will tire more easily than their peers.
- Providing the child with a book of their own rather than expecting them to share.