

Ways to get in touch with the LINS VI Service

Jenny Hill

Advisory Teacher for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment

Office: **01325 720033**

Work mobile: **07590020797**

Email: jhill@hurworthprimary.com

Website: <http://www.hurworthprimary.com/vision-impairment/>

Other useful contacts

Dawn Rafferty

Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO)

Dawn can offer you advice, emotional support and information about: eye conditions, benefits your child may be entitled to, useful organisations, registering your child's sight loss, rehabilitation, and more.

Office: **0132 574 3575 (Only available on a Wednesday)**

Email: dawn.rafferty@actionforblindpeople.org.uk

Jaqueline Wilson

Assistant Rehabilitation Officer

Vane House Resource Centre provides a range of support to blind & partially sighted people which enables them to gain knowledge, confidence and the skills necessary to enhance their quality of life. The centre provides a wide range of services to blind and partially sighted people. The equipment is available for use, not just for training. There is an assessment room where staff can demonstrate equipment which might be of use to visually impaired people including reading aids and talking watches.

Office: **01325 405406**

Low Incidence Needs Service LINS Darlington



Leaflet for parents, educational settings and professionals explaining the support offered by the Low Incident Needs Service for children and young people who are vision impaired in Darlington.

The service provides outreach support from a range of specialist staff. Specialist Teachers visit children and young people at home or their educational setting. The purpose is to ensure that the needs of children and young people with low incidence needs are fully met within their daily life at home or within an educational setting.

The aim is that children and young people with low incidence needs:

- make good educational progress and reduce or close any attainment gap that was existing between them and their peers on entry to school;
- are happy at school, feel included and fully participate in the life of the school;
- move successfully on to a new school, further education or work or training.

Supporting pupils with a vision impairment

One of the roles of the LINS team is to support children with a vision impairment. This support is also offered to school staff, parents and any professional working with a child with a vision impairment. Jenny Hill is the advisory teacher for the children and young people with vision impairments in Darlington.



Who can access support?

Any child from 0-16 who has vision impairment at home, nursery, primary school, secondary school or special school within Darlington and pupils 17-19 who attend Carmel College.

Referrals

The Service has an open referral system. Referrals can be made by parents, education settings, health visitors, general practitioners, opticians, orthoptists and ophthalmologist. Our referral form can be found on our website

<http://www.hurworthprimary.com/vision-impairment/>

What happens after a referral is made?

Jenny Hill will get in touch with the parents and school to arrange an initial visit to the child. Parents are very welcome to attend if they wish. Jenny will assess the child or young person's functional vision and how it affects them.

How much support will a child receive?

Support can vary from a weekly visit, monthly, half termly, termly or yearly. What happens during visits depend greatly on the needs of the pupil. A nationally agreed criterion from NatSIP is used to determine the level of support given.

What does the service do?

- Carry out assessment of how the pupil uses their vision at home or educational setting. (Functional Vision Assessment).
- Give advice to parents and the educational setting about the best conditions for learning.
- Provide support and advice on the use of specialist equipment.
- Offer advice and training in accessing ICT and specialist software.
- Training and advice on the adaptation of learning materials.
- Information on access arrangements for exams.
- Provide information, advice and training to parents, nursery, school or college staff.
- To liaise with other professionals in Education, Health, Social Care and voluntary organisations.
- Develop a support network by providing group social activities for children and their families.