

The Role of a Qualified Teacher of Children and Young People with Vision Impairment (QTVI)

QTVIs carry out a central role in the education of children and young people with vision impairment from birth, working in homes and schools, early years and post-16 settings. This includes:

- Managing referrals from healthcare professionals, families and educational facilities, with clear referral routes and eligibility criteria
- Providing direct support to babies and young children with vision impairment and their parents or carers in the home to support early development and learning through play and to promote parental confidence
- Assessing children and young people's functional vision in liaison with health professionals
- Liaising with health professionals on the range of available low vision devices and how to use them
- Advising in mainstream and specialist early years, school and further education (FE) and higher education (HE) settings on strategies for curriculum access and independent learning



rnib.org.uk



Helpline 0303 123 9999

RNIB registered charity in England and Wales (226227), Scotland (SC039316), Isle of Man (1226). Also operating in Northern Ireland.

- Guiding the work of other professionals, such as teachers, teaching assistants and therapists through INSET, ongoing specialist advice and direct teaching
- Teaching specialist skills, such as braille, using specialist equipment and ICT, and independent living and learning skills
- Adapting and modifying teaching and learning resources in print, audio or tactile formats and training the staff who will support them, to do this effectively
- Advising on access arrangements for exams
- Using strategies to help develop the visual and communication skills of children and young people with additional or complex needs
- Advising on and how appropriate communication strategies can enhance children and young people's functional vision
- Informally assessing learning environments for accessibility and health and safety, and reviewing access plans (in line with the Equality Act 2010)
- Liaising and working with habilitation workers on mobility and independence skills
- Promoting and delivering training on emotional wellbeing and social and communication skills
- Providing a service from birth to 25 years of ages, including effective transition arrangements at key stages from birth, through raising awareness, training, transfer of information and ensuring specialist equipment is in place in new settings
- Supporting students transition into post 16/FE provision and into independent adulthood.

In recognition of the above skills QTVIs are required to hold a mandatory qualification (MQ), which addresses a wide range of specialist outcomes. The importance of this qualification has been affirmed by DfE in the SEND Code of Practice, which can be found here: SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years - **GOV.UK (gov.uk)**. Details of the MQ are set out in a national specification which is available at **gov.uk/guidance/mandatory-qualifications-specialist-teachers**.

For further information about RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People) please visit **rnib.org.uk/services-we-offer-advice-professionals/education-professionals**

For more information about VIEW (Professional Association for the Vision Impairment Education Workforce) please visit **viewweb.org.uk**.

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