

The Vision and Hearing Team are a team of experienced and well-respected Specialist Teacher Advisers (Hearing Impairment), Specialist Teacher Advisers (Visual Impairment), Communicators (who hold qualifications in British Sign Language) and a Qualified Habilitation Specialist who supports children and young people with visual impairment.

We are based at the Civic Office and are part of the Inclusion Service. We work with children and young people with a sensory impairment (hearing, vision or a multi-sensory impairment- a combined hearing and vision loss). We can support children and families from the time of referral to when they leave school/college. The level of support for each child and family is based on the child's needs, their stage of development and the knowledge and support they have around them.

There are two Sensory Impairment Inclusion centres in Portsmouth

For Primary age children: Northern Parade Federated School

For Secondary age children: St Edmunds Catholic Secondary school

Where do we work?

We work with families and schools within the City of Portsmouth.

Our work includes:

- Providing training and advice for school staff.
- Working closely with other agencies that may be involved with the family such as portage, therapy services such as SALT, OT's and the Educational Psychology service.
- Contributing to assessments, monitoring and reporting of needs both formally and informally.
- Promoting programmes of support for vision/hearing.
- Providing training on the use of equipment and maintenance of equipment
- Supporting transition to and between Early Years schools and colleges

How are young people's needs met?

At school or college most needs can be met through ordinarily available provision, there are some children and young people who require an Education, Health and Care Plan to provide additional support in the school or college setting. A child or young person does not need an EHCP for our involvement. Please contact the team if you have any questions about a child or young person's hearing or visual impairment.

Contact/ Further Information

Team Leader: Amanda Richards amanda.richards@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Or further information is available on the local offer

<http://www.portsmouthlocaloffer.org/component/localoffer/items>