

Policy Position Statement

Curriculum Framework for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment in England

February 2023

What we think

We want every child and young person in England to have equitable access to their nursery, primary, secondary or post-16 education. Every child or young person with a vision impairment must be supported and enabled to achieve their potential during compulsory education and beyond.

Children and young people (CYP) with vision impairment (VI) need additional specialist support to enable them to effectively access their learning and to develop key skills required to live and work independently in adulthood.

Despite consensus of the importance of specialist education to date, there has been no consistent UK wide approach for professionals and parents to support CYP with VI.

The Curriculum Framework for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment (CFVI) addresses this. The CFVI is evidence-based and developed by professionals, children and young people and parents and carers. It sets out 11 teaching areas and example outcomes that support CYP with VI from the age of 0-25.

The CFVI should be embedded in government policy and sit alongside the national curriculum so that every CYP with VI has access to it.

What's the issue

There is an inequity in education provision and support available for CYP with VI which must be addressed. CYP with VI are being disadvantaged as they are not consistently enabled to access the full breadth of educational experience and extracurricular opportunities available to their peers.

It is recognised that CYP with VI need to be taught a range of specialist skills that promote independent learning, mobility, everyday living and social communication. Evidence tells us that CYP with VI that learn these skills are more likely to achieve better long-term outcomes and move successfully into independent adulthood. Restrictions in accessing specialist support, is exacerbating this inequity.

A significant challenge to specialist provision and support is that there has been no universally recognised specialist framework shared, language or agreed approach for supporting CYP with VI in England. This has led to confusion over what support they need and who is responsible or qualified to deliver this.

What the framework does

The CFVI provides a framework to support CYP with VI to access the national curriculum and to develop the broad range of skills needed to learn alongside their peers and live independently in adulthood.

The framework clarifies and defines interventions, best practice support and the range of skills that are essential for CYP with VI to develop. It also offers a shared vocabulary for specialist and non-specialist education professionals, CYP with VI and their families. Importantly, it provides a roadmap to a more inclusive education for CYPVI.

The framework presents outcomes within 11 areas of learning; including technology, for example the ability to touch type and read back using a

screen reader for revision; accessing learning materials; habilitation - such as the ability to use mobility and orientation skills to move between lessons; and literacy, for instance the development of braille literacy to access all core curriculum areas.

Recommendations

The Curriculum Framework for Children and Young with Vision Impairment is an evidence based and robust approach to support children and young people with vision impairment to have the opportunity to engage fully with their education.

For this to be achieved we are calling for the CFVI

- To be recognised and referenced in England SEND policies, through recognition in the new SEND national standards.
- To be embedded in local authority service commissioning and delivery frameworks.
- To be followed by all educational settings supporting children and young people with vision impairment and their families, in partnership with vision impairment specialists.
- To be embedded within quality standards for teachers of children with vision impairment and habilitation specialists across the UK.

For further information

You can read more about the statement here [Curriculum Framework for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment | RNIB](#)

Or further information please contact CYPF@rnib.org.uk

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