Supporting Your Child at Home (Visual Impairment)

This is a list of general strategies to help your child when they are working at home. Every child’s vision varies so please do check with your child what works best for them. The Specialist Teachers will also be able to provide further advice about supporting your child; please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Lighting**
- Your child should work in a well-lit room. If necessary position a desk lamp to light up the work area.
- It is better for your child to have their back to a window or light source.
- Reflective light and glare can cause discomfort please close curtains and blinds if necessary.

**Positioning**
- Check your child is comfortable in their work area. E.g.: the height of chair and desk is suitable; computer screen is at the best position for your child to view.
- Writing slopes can help visual angle for reading and writing. A ring binder can be used to create a writing slope.

**Writing and Drawing**
- Your child should write or draw with a black pen or dark pencil e.g. 2B.

**Visual Fatigue**
- Please allow your child to take rest breaks as needed.
- Reading long extracts of text may cause your child visual fatigue. You could act as a reader or if the text is in an electronic format your child could use audio features on the laptop or tablet.
- Use audio books when appropriate.

**Pace**
- A child with vision impairment will usually take longer than their peers to complete tasks. If you feel your child is spending too long or becoming too tired during an activity then you could act as a scribe or your child should only complete part of the task (e.g. every other question if a set of ten questions).
Scribe

- If you need to act as a scribe for your child, be sure to write exactly what they dictate to you. Don’t correct their grammar or spelling. It’s important that their teacher sees their work.
- An older child could use dictation features on a laptop or iPad. This would need to be read through to check it had been recorded correctly. If the work is then sent to a teacher for marking then please inform them that dictation tools have been used.