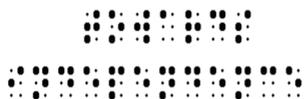


The Thurrock Sensory Service for Children & Young People with a Visual Impairment

Towards
Independence



The Thurrock Sensory Service for Children and Young People with a Visual Impairment is provided and managed by the St Clere's Co-operative Trust Academy. Services are provided for all children and young people from the ages 0 to 25 years living in the Thurrock area.

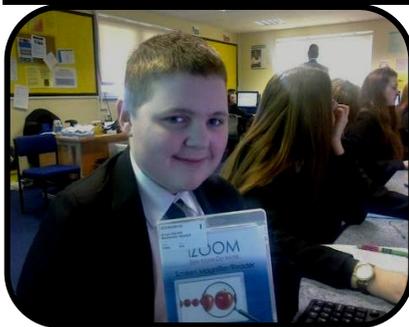
St Clere's school is host to the Thurrock Resource Centre for secondary pupils with a visual impairment and a primary resource based at Stanford-le-

Hope Primary school supports children of early years and primary school age. The resources are based in purpose-built accommodation within both schools.

The centres provide support for pupils so that they can work within the main school classes, following the same curriculum as their peers. Assistance varies according to the identified needs of the individual and their impairment. The pupils are supported by a team of qualified specialist support staff and teachers for visually impaired young people, who prepare materials and provide appropriate support in class. Print materials and diagrams are adapted and modified to large print, tactile media and Braille. A range of low vision aids, specialist equipment and computer-based magnification and speech software is available.

The service provides support to children and young people, their families, health professionals and educational establishments across Thurrock.

**An ICT lesson made accessible
through the use of iZoom screen
magnifier and reader**



The Resources are able to maintain a wide range of modern technological aids and software to accommodate the needs of the pupils. Among the aids currently available are talking and large display equipment for measuring; talking dictionary/thesaurus; a range of CCTV enlargers; Braille-note, iPADS and tactile aids.

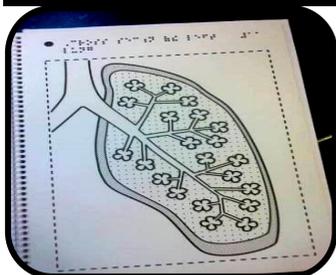
A story book with extra large font



A Braille Note



A Tactile Book



Resources to show the 3 states of matter



Daily living skills:

Life skills are often a challenge for visually impaired young people. Pupils are supported to develop their life skills through an individual programme designed to encourage and improve confidence, self-esteem and independence.

Mobility and orientation skills:

These skills are an essential element of the programme for independence. Mobility specialists support pupils to enable them to travel independently and safely.

Braille: The resources are able to offer Braille transcription and Braille tuition (contracted and uncontracted) in UEB (Unified English Braille), maths and modern foreign languages.

An English lesson using a Perkins Brailier

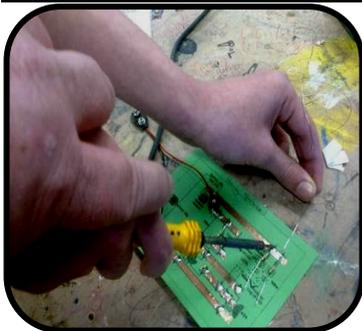


We have well established links with:

- local health services
- Blind Children UK
- Look Essex,
- Essex Actionnaires Club
- RNIB
- RLSB
- Specialist centres at GOSH and Moorfields Eye Hospital
- Other local organisations offering recreational activities for visually impaired children

Pupils are expected to participate fully in activities as part of the school's curriculum and also when provided as recreational visits, clubs and activities. In addition visits are arranged to London Theatre for audio described productions and workshops organised through Envision. Recent visits have included Warhorse, The Railway Children, Wicked and Billy Elliot. Pupils have also participated on residential outdoor activity visits at Mersea and Grangewaters.

Soldering using hand over hand technique



Visiting the War Horse production



A student's textiles work



A student's tech work



The Thurrock Outreach Service for Visually Impaired Young People

Based at St Clare's School, the service provides support for all young people with a visual impairment from birth to 25 years. The advisory teachers are able

Outreach service

to assess, support, advise and supply information to individuals, their families, schools and associated professionals.



In addition, the service offers a range of services to individuals and organisations. These include: tailored training in VI awareness, habilitation, Braille tuition, environmental audits and risk assessment.

The aim of the service is to ensure that young people are equipped with the skills to become fully participating members of society.

If you would like to find out more about any aspect of visual impairment and the support we offer within the service, please contact:

Helen Brice, Head of VI Service
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