

Specialist Teacher Adviser (Visual Impairment)

Salary: M6 to Upper 3 - £43,607 to £49,084 per annum, pro rata

Salary may also attract MPS, UPS, TLR and SEN Points - depending on qualifications and experience.

Working Week: 0.6 FTE - 1.0 FTE

Contract: Permanent

Portsmouth City Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

DBS Disclosure at Enhanced level will be required prior to any offer of employment and this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Every post is subject to PCC and Portsmouth Safeguarding Children's Board safer recruitment procedures.

We invite applications for Qualified Specialist Teacher Advisers, Visual Impairment (QTVI).

We also invite applicants who are Qualified Teachers and who are willing to train as a QTVI funded by Portsmouth from September 2025. Successful candidates will be required to sign a formal training contract to confirm their acceptance of the conditions.

As a Specialist Teacher Adviser, you would be part of the Vision and Hearing Team, which is based in the Civic Offices in the city centre and is a successful Team within the Inclusion Service.

Who are we?

The Vision and Hearing Team is a highly regarded needs led Team within the Inclusion Service which is an integral part of the Education Department. The team comprises of Specialist Teacher Advisers (vision and hearing), Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Digital Accessibility, a Habilitation Specialist for visually impaired pupils, and Communication Support Workers for deaf pupils. We are a supportive, enthusiastic, and experienced team who are looking forward to welcoming a new member of staff to our team to fulfil an additional Specialist Teacher Adviser post for Visual Impairment.

As a service we take pride in our work by valuing others, focusing on what's important so that we make a real and positive difference. Our values are outlined in our Ways of Working and our Guiding Principles and if they reflect how you are and how you work then this could be the role that meets your expectations.

What is the role of Specialist Teacher Adviser, Vision?

The post holder will report to the Vision and Hearing Team Leader.

The Specialist Teacher Adviser. Visual impairment provides crucial support and expertise to visually impaired children and young people, families, other professionals and educational settings across Portsmouth. Ultimately, they work to promote inclusion and ensure visually impaired students have equitable access to learning and development. This includes the development of specialist skills in areas like sensory development, communication, literacy (including Braille), accessing information, and technology.

The post will include:

- To identify and assess the needs of children and young people (0-25) who have a visual impairment, in conjunction with other professionals, teachers and parents and in line with the SEND Code of Practice.
- To undertake the assessment of children's vision using a range of specialist testing materials.
- To provide advice and support to teachers and teaching assistants of pre-school, school settings and college/post 16 children and young people with a visual impairment.
- To provide direct intervention/specialist teaching as required.
- To monitor the progress of children who have a significant visual impairment.
- To liaise with colleagues from health, social services and voluntary bodies over the needs of children who have visual impairment
- To liaise with parents over the educational needs and progress of pupils with a visual impairment, including those visually impaired children under statutory school age.
- To advise the LA on independent, non-maintained and other LA provision within their area of specialism.
- To provide training to settings and their staff, other professionals and teams/organisations as required.
- To attend meetings for the exchange of professional information, including statutory review meeting concerning pupils and multi-agency meetings.
- To participate in activities which support the personal and professional development of the team.
- Some flexible working to cover holiday periods with prior agreement with Team Leader
- Under the direction of the Team Leader update service information, literature and handouts, for parents, teachers etc.
- Contribute to the development and communication of City policies, under the direction of the team leader.

Who is the person?

Qualified Specialist Teacher Adviser Visual Impairment (QTVI)

You need to :

Have an in-depth knowledge of the strategies and technologies used to remove barriers to learning for babies, children and young people with vision impairment is essential, therefore you will hold the Mandatory Qualification in VI.

You should have successful experience of teaching in an educational setting, experience of working with families, and experience of multi-agency working. You will manage a personal caseload including both advisory and direct teaching support for children with VI. You should have experience of delivering individual and whole school training in a range of settings. It is highly desirable that the candidate has high levels of skill and confidence in using technology and equipment that supports access for CYP with VI. This role offers a varied experience and would suit someone who is enthusiastic, flexible, and able to work in a variety of settings, as part of a Service and multi-disciplinary team.

An in-depth knowledge of the requirements for safeguarding and child protection, strategies is essential as well as knowledge of current SEND policy and practice, especially as it affects teaching and learning within provision for the sensory impaired.

You must hold a current driver's license and have access to a car. An essential car user parking permit for the borough and a mileage allowance is available. This post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check and is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

- Be a qualified teacher with the Mandatory Qualification in Visual Impairment or studying for it
- Have knowledge of Braille
- Have good ICT skills including up to date knowledge of technology, resources and issues relevant to VI
- Possess a sound base of current research and practice relating to visual impairment
- Have an understanding of developments within Education especially with regard to the National Curriculum and Early Years.
- Be someone who understands family engagement and is committed to working in partnership
- Be able to work as part of a co-operative team based on a flexible approach to support but also have the ability to work individually.
- Have effective interpersonal & communication skills
- Use flexible working procedures to maximise efficiency in working
- Excellent personal organisation and time management skills
- A commitment to achieving the best outcomes for young people with Visual Impairment.

Trainee Specialist Teacher Adviser Visual Impairment Trainee (QTVI)

- Qualified Teacher Status (QTS): You must hold a recognised teaching qualification.

- You will need demonstrable successful experience of working with children or young people in an educational setting, including CYP with special educational needs .
- Working with families and experience of multi-agency working.
- Commitment to further study: A willingness to undertake and successfully complete the Mandatory Qualification (MQ) in Visual Impairment is essential.
- Understanding of SEND: A good understanding of the principles and practices of Special Educational Needs and Disability is crucial.

Desirable

- Experience working with visually impaired children or young people.
- Experience delivering training.

You will need to demonstrate that you have the Right to Work in the UK. No post will be offered without it.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

As part of any recruitment process, Portsmouth City Council collects and processes personal data relating to job applicants. Portsmouth City Council is committed to being transparent about how it collects and uses that data and to meeting its data protection obligations under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Completing and sending an application in for a vacancy is your consent for us to process your data for the purpose of recruitment. Your data is not used in any other way and you can withdraw your consent at any point in the recruitment process and we will destroy or delete your information.

For more detailed information on what we collect, how we use, store, delete data and your rights you can access a privacy statement on our Job board.