

## Appendix II

### Common vision impairments

Albinism	associated with a lack of pigment (colour) in skin, hair and eyes. Tinted spectacles may be needed to maintain best comfortable vision in bright light where glare is a problem. Albinism is commonly associated with nystagmus and problems with binocular vision. Children with albinism have very short sight that cannot be fully corrected by wearing spectacles. See: <a href="http://www.albinism.org.uk">www.albinism.org.uk</a>
Amblyopia	sometimes called a 'lazy' eye. It means that an eye has a decrease in vision which cannot be corrected with spectacles. Usually caused as a result of an eye turn (strabismus/squint) so it is more likely that one eye is affected. It is very important that if a young child's squint is treated as quickly as possible while there is still time to improve the development of vision.
Anophthalmia	when a baby is born without one or both eyes. See the website of the Micro and Anophthalmic Children's Society at <a href="http://www.macs.org.uk">www.macs.org.uk</a>
Astigmatism	an irregular shaped cornea. Vision is distorted because the light rays do not meet at a single focal point. Very few eyes are perfect spheres so astigmatism is quite common. Depending on the severity of the astigmatism, the focus of vision can be corrected with spectacles.
Cataract	a clouding of the lens resulting in images becoming unclear. Cataracts can be present at birth or develop after birth. Most cataracts are surgically removed as soon as they are detected to avoid delaying or in the case of a baby, preventing the development of vision.
Cerebral vision impairment	usually results from damage to parts of the area of the brain that processes vision, called the visual cortex. Some children have specific processing and perception problems. It is very common in children with complex additional needs. See the website of the Cerebral Vision Impairment Society at <a href="http://www.cvisociety.org.uk">www.cvisociety.org.uk</a>
Colour confusion	not being able to distinguish certain colours from each other, sometimes called 'colour blindness'. Around 8% of boys have colour confusion, typically with red and green.
Conjunctivitis	inflammation of the conjunctiva.
Glaucoma	damage to the optic nerve generally associated with a build-up of pressure inside the eye.
Hypermetropia (longsightedness)	things at a distance are more clearly seen than things nearby. Typically corrected by spectacles or contact lenses.
Keratitis	an infection or inflammation of the cornea.

Keratoconus	thinning of the cornea causing it to become cone shaped, and resulting in distorted vision; more common in older children and young adults.
Microphthalmia	when a baby is born with one or both eyes that are unusually small. See the website of the Micro and Anophthalmic Children's Society at <a href="http://www.macs.org.uk">www.macs.org.uk</a>
Myopia (shortsightedness)	things nearby are seen more clearly than things at a distance. It is typically corrected by spectacles or contact lenses.
Nystagmus	an involuntary 'wobble' movement of the eyes from side to side or up and down, resulting in an unclear image. See the website of the Nystagmus Network at <a href="http://www.nystagmusnet.org.uk">www.nystagmusnet.org.uk</a>
Optic atrophy	the deterioration of the optic nerve.
Retinitis pigmentosa	a group of hereditary diseases of the retina that sometimes result in 'tunnel vision', when there is a gradual loss of peripheral vision. See the website of the Retinitis Pigmentosa Fighting Blindness at: <a href="http://www.rpfightingblindness.org.uk">www.rpfightingblindness.org.uk</a>
Retinoblastoma	a very rare cancerous tumour of the retina which mainly affects children under the age of five. Over 95% of children survive after treatment at a specialist centre. See the website of the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (CHECT) at: <a href="http://www.checht.org.uk">www.checht.org.uk</a>
Retinopathy of prematurity	damage to the retina in a premature baby's eye. Some studies suggest that this is due to the increased survival rates of premature births. The incidence of RoP is increasing. See information at <a href="http://www.gosh.nhs/medical-information">www.gosh.nhs/medical-information</a>
Strabismus (squint)	sometimes called an eye 'turn', where both eyes point in different directions due to a muscle imbalance or long sight. A very common condition – it is estimated that around 5% of children will have some kind of strabismus. Treatment may include prescribing glasses or wearing an eye patch (on the good eye). See the Optometrists Network website at: <a href="http://www.strabismus.org">www.strabismus.org</a>

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