

vispa

Vision Impaired Service Providers Alliance

Services Directory

www.vispa.ie

Members:

- Fighting Blindness
- Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind
- NCBI
- St. Joseph's Centre for the Visually Impaired

VISPA

VISPA's vision is to provide a cohesive voice advocating for increased understanding and awareness of the needs and services for people who are vision impaired or blind.

This directory of services is intended to act as a guide to the services that are available for people who are vision impaired or blind.

The key service providers are listed under each category along with a contact telephone number for each agency providing that service.

Full contact details for VISPA members are listed on pages 24/25.

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Advice & Support

Initial referral and assessment may indicate that support services are required. Emotional support is provided primarily through one-to-one meetings with individuals or families. Advice, information, practical and social support are also provided where necessary. Community based staff advocate where required to do so, on behalf of people in regard to issues such as access, housing, benefits and entitlements.

Provided by:

NCBITel: 1850 334353

St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635

Fighting BlindnessTel: 01 7093050

Irish Guide Dogs.....Tel: 1850 506300

Access

In order to support the needs of people who are vision impaired or blind when accessing information, use of transport and negotiating the built environment.

Accessibility Audits of the built environment can involve an assessment, report and recommendations in relation to an individual's home or the built environment in general. Auditing and improving access to electronic, computer and web based systems on a consultancy basis is also available.

Provided by:

NCBITel: 1850 334353

Irish Guide DogsTel: 1850 506300

Assessments

An assessment is a multidisciplinary process which identifies the range of needs and abilities of people who are vision impaired or blind. It involves recommendations about which interventions may best enable each person who is vision impaired or blind to reach their individual potential.

Provided by:

**St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635
(0 – 22 years)**

NCBITel: 1850 334353

Awareness

Awareness campaigns focus on access to treatment for specific eye conditions, general eye health and on-going research activities, issues faced by people who are vision impaired or blind as well as services available to them. Awareness presentations and training in the area of visual disability are provided to specific groups in the public, private or voluntary sector.

Provided by:

Fighting BlindnessTel: 01 7093050

NCBI.....Tel: 1850 334353

Irish Guide DogsTel: 1850 506300

Braille, Audio & Large Print

(See also Library/Information)

This includes the provision of educational and general reading materials in alternative formats including Braille, audio, large print, text files and DAISY.

Provided by:

**St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635
(Educational Materials Only)**

NCBITel: 1850 334353

Counselling

Professional Counselling and psychotherapy are available to individuals, couples and families experiencing difficulties relating to vision impairment or blindness.

A range of options are available to meet individual needs:

- Couple and family therapy
- Group therapy
- Long-term individual psychotherapy
- Short-term crisis counselling
- Support group meetings

Peer Counselling is also offered by counsellors who themselves experience disability.

Provided by:

NCBITel: 1850 334353

**The Insight Counselling Centre
@ Fighting BlindnessTel: 01 6746496**

Education

Preschool & Early Intervention

These services are founded upon an holistic approach to the development and education of children who are vision impaired or blind. They are composed of a number of elements including:

- Support and specialist advice to families and external agencies
- Specialist and integrated preschools
- Parent support groups
- Training and residential weekends for parents and children

Provided by:

St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635

NCBITel: 1850 334353

Primary Education

St. Joseph's Primary School aims to challenge and support pupils who are vision impaired or blind, some of whom have additional disabilities, through a variety of teaching and learning approaches, specialised equipment and an appropriate curriculum. The Revised Primary School Curriculum is enhanced by the essential additional curriculum for children who are vision impaired or blind which includes:

- Orientation & Mobility to promote independent and safe travel
- Touch-typing to facilitate effective use of ICT
- Clay Modelling to enhance tactile skills.
- Pre Braille and Braille skills.

A multidisciplinary approach is employed.

The school also acts as a resource for parents, pupils and teachers nationally, welcoming visitors with issues and queries relating to the education of children who are vision impaired or blind.

Provided by:

St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635

Secondary Education

Secondary education is offered in Pobalscoil Rosmini. Fully sighted, vision impaired and blind students are educated together. The school is adjacent to St. Joseph's campus and utilises all services and resources. The school offers a wide range of academic and practical subjects for:

- Junior Certificate
- Transition Year
- Leaving Certificate Applied
- Leaving Certificate

Staff include six dedicated teachers for students who are vision impaired or blind. The school provides access to a remedial service and special support for those students who have additional needs.

Residential services consisting of fully staffed group housing both on campus and in the local community are available from Sunday to Friday afternoons for primary and secondary students.

Provided by:

St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635

Employment Support

Career advice, information, guidance towards further training options, advancing career prospects and job retention are all aspects of employment support.

Relevant advice on legislation, job retention, redeployment and awareness training are available.

Advice is also available relating to adaptations in the work place to meet the needs of an

employee/employer who is vision impaired or blind.

Provided by:

NCBITel: 1850 334353

**St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635
(16 – 22 years)**

Irish Guide DogsTel: 1850 506300

Guide Dogs

Training with a Guide Dog is offered free of charge to persons who are blind or vision impaired, aged 18 or over and are residents in Ireland.

Those interested are encouraged to apply. Applicants are assessed both in their own home and at our National Headquarters for their suitability to owning a Guide Dog.

Full support is given during this process. Training takes place at our National Headquarters and Training Centre in Cork with aftercare and support being offered in the home, work and educational environments. Financial assistance is provided for vet fees and feeding of the dog to those who require it.

Provided by:

Irish Guide Dogs.....Tel: 1850 506300

Independent Living Skills

Independent living skills includes training and advice on practical solutions that enable people who are vision impaired or blind to carry out everyday tasks safely and independently. Introduction, advanced and refresher training options are available.

There are a wide range of residential based training programmes available including:

- Introduction to Independent living skills training
- Introduction to gardening
- Introduction to leisure activities
- Advanced Independent living skills training
- Technology & everyday living

Provided by:

NCBITel: 1850 334353

Irish Guide Dogs.....Tel: 1850 506300

**St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635
(6 – 22 years)**

Information Technology

A wide range of assistive technology is available to support independent living and this service includes:

- Assessment of individual needs in relation to technology
- Demonstration of technological equipment
- Installation of equipment
- Technical support
- Information Technology training in groups or individually

Advice and training is also available to enhance orientation and mobility skills through the use of GPS and other technological aids.

Provided by:

NCBI.....Tel: 1850 334353

St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635

Irish Guide DogsTel: 1850 506300

Library & Information

(See also Braille, Audio and Large print)

This includes a wide range of Braille, audio and large print books, newspapers and magazines for people who are vision impaired or blind.

A comprehensive resource of information on all aspects of vision impairment is also available for families and professionals.

Provided by:

NCBITel: 1850 334353

St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635

Low Vision Service

The low vision service includes an assessment of functional vision together with advice and provision of appropriate magnification aids which may make certain tasks easier for a person with impaired vision. The service also includes the provision of a range of practical options which enhance independence. Follow up support in the use of low vision aids is provided as required.

For children, extensive clinical paediatric examinations take place in a child centered environment with adaptations to clinical tests to suit children with multiple disabilities.

Provided by:

NCBITel: 1850 334353

**St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635
(0 – 22 years)**

Multi-Media

This includes the production of audio description for film and documentaries for TV broadcasts. The service also produces DAISY audio books.

Provided by:

NCBI.....Tel: 1850 334353

Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy for people who are vision impaired or blind between the ages of 0 and 22 falls into three broad categories:

- Compensatory, which consists of providing modifications;
- Supportive, which involves working with optometrists and ophthalmologists; and
- Remedial, in which the therapist works to help people utilise their vision effectively.

Provided by:

**St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635
(0-22 years)**

Orientation & Mobility

Orientation & mobility training enables people to move around safely and independently both indoors and outdoors including accessing public transport.

Training is tailored to individual requirements of children and adults and may involve the use of a mobility aid such as a long cane or guide dog. Long cane training is available to people of all ages.

On offer are a range of home based, community based and residential based training programmes which include:

- Introduction to Orientation and Mobility Training
- Advanced Travel and Transport Training

Provided by:

NCBITel: 1850 334353

Irish Guide DogsTel: 1850 506300

**St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635
(0-22 years)**

Physiotherapy

Specialist Physiotherapy addresses the needs of children and young people who are vision impaired or blind to best determine how to facilitate their development. It includes:

- Individual therapy with people who are vision impaired or blind
- Postural management / walkers, standers
- Training of staff – handling children and exercise programs.
- Manual handling training

Provided by:

**St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635
(0-22 years)**

Social Activities

Social activities provide an opportunity to bring people together to share interests and experiences. These can include short breaks away, one day events, weekly activities and summer camps at home and abroad.

A range of home based, centre based and residential based training programmes are available including:

- Introduction to Pottery
- Arts and Crafts
- Advanced Ceramics
- Digital Photography
- Cookery – introductory and advanced
- Music for Leisure
- Movement and Relaxation

Participation in local sports and leisure activities are supported through advocacy awareness and promotion of accessibility. Participation by people who

are vision impaired or blind in activity/sports based fundraising events as well as links with Irish Blind Sports and the National League of the Blind, open up an ever increasing range of options to people.

Provided by:

St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635

NCBITel: 1850 334353

Fighting BlindnessTel: 01 7093050

Speech & Language Therapy

Assessment and treatment of speech and language disorders including those associated with:

- Visual impairment
- Development delay
- Sensory impairments e.g. hearing loss
- Physical disabilities e.g. Cerebral Palsy
- Learning disability
- Autism Spectrum Disorders

Provided by:

**St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635
(0-22 years)**

Vocational Training

Training is delivered on a one-to-one or a group basis and is tailored to suit the needs of the individual. It can lead to further training, open or supported employment and/or independent living. Training is accredited and includes:

- Support and Employment
- Life Skills/Independent Living Skills
- Orientation and Mobility
- Job seeking skills
- Exploration of employment options
- Preparation for employment or further education/training.

Residential services, consisting of fully staffed group housing in the local community, are available from Sunday to Friday afternoons for Vocational Students attending St. Josephs.

Provided by:

**St. Joseph's CentreTel: 01 8373635
(16-22 years)**

NCBITel: 1850 334353

Contact Details

NCBI

Head Office
Whitworth Road
Drumcondra
Dublin 9
Lo call: 1850 334353
FAX: 01 830 7787
Email: info@ncbi.ie
Web: www.ncbi.ie



Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

National Headquarters and Training Centre
Model Farm Road
Cork
Lo call: 1850 506300
FAX: 021 4874152
Email: info@guidedogs.ie
Web: www.guidedogs.ie



irish guide dogs
for the blind

St. Joseph's Centre for the Visually Impaired

Grace Park Road

Drumcondra

Dublin 9

Tel: 01 8373635

FAX: 01 8368408

Email: info@stjosephs.ie

Web: www.stjosephsvi.ie



Fighting Blindness

1 Christchurch Hall,

High Street,

Dublin 8

Tel: (01) 7093050

FAX: (01) 7093010



The Insight Counselling Centre

Tel: 01 6746496

Email: insight@fightingblindness.ie

Website: www.fightingblindness.ie

VISPA Website:

www.vispa.ie

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