

## Some Tips on Making Text Accessible for students with Vision Impairment.

Students who are vision impaired will need adaptations to access printed information for education and for pleasure. Literacy and reading skills are foundation skills that will allow the student to access all areas of the curriculum.

### Print Readers

Students who have low vision always use printed materials. Some students may be able to read print without any changes but most students with low vision will require large print or magnification devices to read print. It is important to understand that while a child may be able to see a small font size, they may need enlarged text in order to read at speed and for sustained periods.

Using a computer allows the child to enlarge the text to their preferred size and style. Any device: laptop, tablet or phone can be set up to suit the reader's preference.

#### Consider:

**Font size:** Allow the user to try out different font sizes to choose what suits.

**Font style:** Some font styles are easier to see than others. Comic Sans or Ariel can be good choices for many readers. It is best to avoid italics or underlining text.

**Background colour:** Many people with low vision find constant screen use very tiring. This can be because of glare or screen brightness. Changing the background colour to black or dark grey and using a white or yellow colour for the text reduces this glare and can be much more comfortable. Encourage the user to play around with colours and choose what they find best.

**Mouse/pointer size and colour:** Often the pointer on the screen can be difficult to find. Mouse pointer size and colour can be changed to suit the user.

**Cursor size and colour:** Like the mouse pointer above, the size and colour of the cursor can be changed to suit the user.

**Magnifier:** All devices have a built in magnifier. This can be used to make all or part of the screen bigger.

**Narrator:** The narrator can be used to read out text from the screen. This is very helpful if the user is tired, or if there are items on the screen that cannot be clearly seen.

All of these adaptations can be found in the Ease of Access centre in the Settings menu on Windows devices. Likewise, on Apple and Android devices choose Accessibility in the Settings menu.

Contact your Visiting Teacher for further information.