

Vision impairments (VI)

Case study: impact of using specialist ICT (Optelec Traveller)

The pupil attends an Essex mainstream primary school (Key Stage 2). He has cone dystrophy and high bilateral myopia.

What is the issue?

The pupil has difficulty in accessing reading books and other reading material widely used in class. Any books that the pupil wants to read need to be either sourced in large print or photocopied with magnification.

What actions were taken?

Following assessment by the Specialist Teacher (VI) and Specialist ICT Technician, a trial model of an Optelec Traveller was provided for the pupil's use.



Impact

Having the Optelec Traveller has completely changed the pupil's experience of school. In his own words, it is *"the best bit of kit ever"*. It allows him to access the same learning materials as his peers, at the same time as his peers. Now the pupil can choose a book and sit down and read it immediately, instead of waiting for it to be photocopied (enlarged), or a large print version sourced by teaching staff.

In the past the pupil had been making slow academic progress, but teachers have seen the speed of his progress increase. The gap between his attainment and that of his peers has been closing and in some areas, has closed completely.

When asked for feedback about the equipment, the pupil said:

- Are you using it daily? **Yes**
- Is it always available when you need it (ie is it charged)? **Yes**
- Can you use it all by yourself? **Yes**
- Is it making it easier for you to access your learning? **Yes. I can read any book I like.**
- What is the best thing about it? **It's really cool and other people think it's cool. It helps me so that I can use any book in class like everyone else.**
- What is not working so well? **Nothing**
- Anything else you would like to say about it? **Can I keep it forever?**