

SEND Provision Award

St.Vincent's School for Sensory Impairment

As a residential specialist school for visual impairment (VI) St. Vincent's has been in existence for nearly two hundred years supporting VI learners locally, nationally and more recently internationally. The school is graded as OUTSTANDING by Ofsted for both its school and residential provision whilst also receiving awards including the Freedom of the City of Liverpool (2016) High Sheriffs Awards (2014, 2019) Liverpool John Moores Corporate Award (2017) , British Horticultural Society 'outstanding' (2018) and more recently RNIB recognition awards (2019).

With high unemployment rates for the VI and lower than average friendship groupings leading to isolation and potentially mental health, the school educational provision focuses on an individualised curriculum aimed at building pupils strengths whilst weaving in vocational strategies. Our **intent** is:

- To nurture, enrich and highlight individual strengths.
- To engage with communities locally, nationally and internationally through project-based learning and wherever possible with individual strengths.
- To signpost strengths into flight paths and routes to employment and friendship generation, engaging wherever possible leadership and trainer opportunities within a reverse inclusion context.
- To deliver individual outcomes

A project based 'enriched' curriculum delivered in school is the medium through which we **implement** our school intent vision. We have opened this curriculum out to all VI pupils on a merseyfootprint as a means to share our best practice teaching and learning and the outcomes emerging from it. Furthermore, we have received the right to teach the mandatory qualification needed to be a teacher of the visually impaired from the Department for Education in collaboration with LJMU attracting students from across the UK into Liverpool.

The Impact of our best practice has seen pupils secure employment and move onto opportunities. It has facilitated new and exciting collaborations with community partners including Merseyside Police, Rotary, the Lions, The Pakistan Multicultural centre, Liverpool John Moores and Liverpool Hope Universities, Scouts, O2 , Duke of Edinburgh Award, Salesforce and a myriad of Small Medium Sized Enterprises in synergy with research and publication across VI teaching and learning and the UN SDGS with specific reference to 17.3.4.5.8.10

A significant impact has been the development of the international SIGHTBOX project which sends educational resources for the VI across the globe facilitating our pupils to be the trainers of the trainers and the development of new trade opportunities internationally revolving around sightbox

content generation (@sightboxUK and @stvincentsL12). Our aim in the immediate is to secure Department for International Development Funds to sponsor VI pupils from around the world to our best practice teaching and learning and cement the City Region as the Global Leader within research and development of VI teaching, learning and innovation. Our peer review publications have shared the progress of our vision and the wider value to investing in our VI young learners

Publications

Patterson, J., Loomis, C (2015) Teacher Education for Equity and Sustainability Network (TEESNet) Eighth Annual Conference 9th July 2015, Liverpool Hope University From Curriculum Makers to World Shapers: Building Capacities of Educators for a Just and Sustainable World. Post conference paper *'Education and Enterprise' Village: supporting visually impaired (VI) learners locally, nationally and internationally through 'values' education and service-learning*

Patterson, J. (2011) 'Developing the Role of 'Values' Within Information and Communication Technology: An Introduction to the Schools Intergenerational Nurturing and Learning Project'. In: Bowdon, M. and Carpenter, G. (Eds.) Higher Education, Emerging Technologies, and Community Partnerships: Concepts, Models, and Practices. IGI Global (p.329-338).

Patterson, J., Loomis, C (2016) Manuscript ID BJVI-15-0044 British Journal of Visual Impairment *"Linking schools, universities and businesses to mobilize resources and support for career choice and development of students who are visually impaired"*

Patterson, J., Loomis, C (2018) Teacher Education for Equity and Sustainability Network (TEESNet) Tenth Annual Conference 10th Annual Conference, Liverpool Hope University September 2017 Making the Sustainable Development Goals Real: The Role of Teacher Education in Promoting Quality Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education in Schools. *LITTLE STORIES and BIG PICTURES: Quality education addresses social and economic inequality for the visually impaired locally and globally*