

St Barnabas School for the Blind: Educational provision for children, young people and adults with visual impairment in Cyprus.



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Historical overview

- St Barnabas School for the Blind was established in 1929 within the framework of philanthropy (Asylum for the Blind)
- It was the first special school in Cyprus and still is the only provision of its kind in the island.
- Until 1957, the School operated within the framework of philanthropy.
- In 1957 the School becomes for the first time a 'Public School' under British colonial administration.

- Upon the independence of Cyprus in 1960, a new era of development and upgrading of the School began.
- In 1960 a Secondary school department was introduced.
- In 1963 the School was relocated in a new purpose built building.
- In 1964 the School pioneered into the integration of students with VI in mainstream settings.
- In 1999 a new Special Education Law was introduced. The Law officially introduced Integration in Cyprus.

 The 1999 Law had an impact on the School as it further accelerated the integration of all students with VI in mainstream settings (Excluding students with MDVI). In addition to this, the new Law mandated that St Barnabas School for the Blind should provide training programmes for adults with VI.

 The St Barnabas school for the Blind has gradually, through the years, been transformed from a special boarding school into a Resource Centre, having the main responsibility for the provision of education and support services to individuals with VI of all ages all over Cyprus.

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Key facts and figures about Cyprus and visual impairment



Area: 9,251 km²



Population: 1 million



Number of people officially registered as legally blind: 2500

The St Barnabas School for the Blind Services

- Outreach support services for children and young people with VI attending mainstream educational settings
- Rehabilitation, habilitation and training programmes for adults and students with VI including those with dual sensory impairment
- Early intervention programme for children with VI and their families
- Unit for students with VI and additional disabilities (MDVI)
- Telephonists training programme
- Accessible document formats service
- Assistive technology department

Outreach Support services for children with VI attending mainstream educational settings



Roles of the advisory special teacher of students with VI

- Assessment (Functional vision assessment, Assessment of the environment)
- Teaching students in special curriculum areas (support within the classroom, support provided in withdrawal sessions)
- Advising class and subjects teachers
- Facilitating access to the curriculum (provision of accessible document formats, assistive technology)
- Advising families

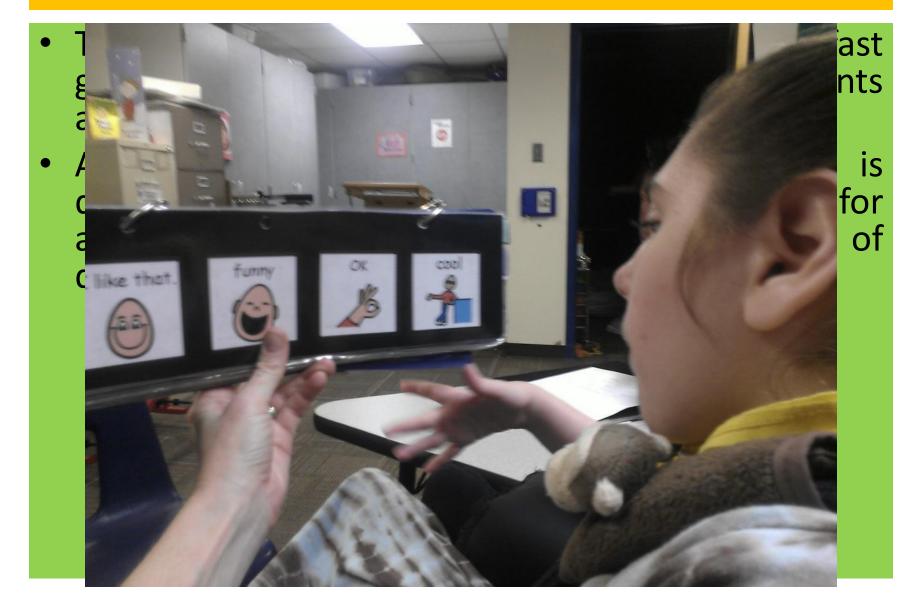
Rehabilitation, habilitation and training programmes for adults and students



Early intervention programme for children with VI and their families



Unit for students with VI and additional disabilities (MDVI)

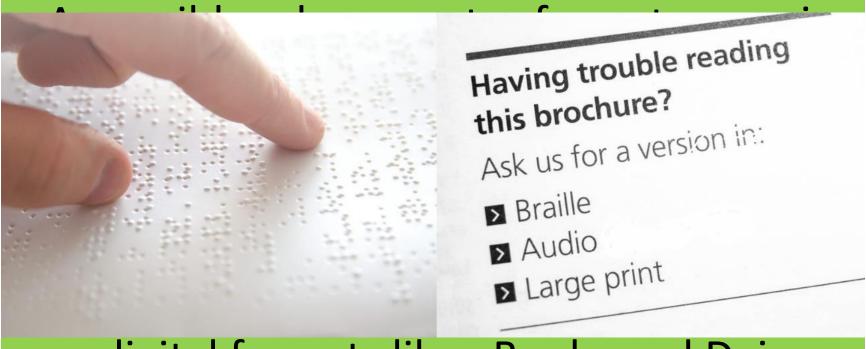


Telephone operators training programme



Accessible document formats/transcription service

The St Barnabas school for the Blind's



as digital formats like eBooks and Daisy.

Assistive technology department

