

Aniridia

What is aniridia?

- Aniridia is a rare medical condition affecting the eyes
- It is a genetic condition and congenital (present at birth)
- The iris (coloured part of the eye) is either completely or partially missing
- It also causes many parts of the eye to be under-developed, such as the optic nerve and macular/fovea
- People with aniridia may develop other eye conditions including, [photophobia](#), nystagmus, glaucoma, and cataracts.

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What are the effects of aniridia?

- Aniridia and these associated conditions affect everyone differently. Some people with aniridia are partially sighted or blind, others may have near normal sight
- Most people with aniridia have some reduction in their level of vision
- An increased sensitivity to light ([photophobia](#))
- Nystagmus (wobbly eyes) may be present.

What can help?

- Ensure that your child attends all medical/clinical appointments
- Wear glasses if prescribed and keep them clean
- Wear a peaked cap and/or dark glasses to help control glare
- Ensure correct positioning i.e. close to the activity or item being looked at and with light source behind
- Use blinds to control sunlight and glare and teachers should avoid standing in front of windows when speaking to class
- Worksheets and photocopies should be clear with good contrast between print and paper

- Write using a 2B pencil, a black felt tip pen or black biro to provide best contrast
- Use good quality black or dark blue markers on whiteboards. Avoid using green. Red or other light colours as many in a class will have difficulty seeing these
- If drops are prescribed they should be used as advised by the eye clinic.

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A Qualified Teacher of the Vision Impaired (QTVI) will assess your child's functional vision within the school environment and provide advice to the school on strategies for curriculum access and independent learning

Useful contacts

[Aniridia Network](#)