

Orientation and Mobility

Children who are blind or vision impaired may require support within and beyond their regular school curriculum in order to understand, access and participate in the various environments that learning occurs.

Orientation and Mobility (O&M) is a key strategy to provide this additional and specific learning.

Orientation refers to understanding where you are in relation to your environment. Mobility refers to safe, purposeful movement within these environments.

Students may require experiences and direct teaching to understand the range of concepts, including those related to space and time to access and participate in all elements of the Australian Curriculum.

O&M may cover a broad range of learning including:

- sensory and perceptual skills
- formal O&M techniques including human guide, protective techniques, and the use of mobility aids such as the long cane
- concept development related to body awareness, spatial concepts and varied built and natural environments
- skills for exploring environments and objects including curriculum materials
- problem solving and functional application of O&M skills
- motor skill development.

This learning is relevant to many areas of a student's life and underpins meaningful learning in all areas of the Australian Curriculum.

All students with Blindness, Low Vision and Deafblindness can access O&M supports from birth to school leaving age, including those with complex needs.

Orientation and Mobility Advisory Visiting Teachers (AVTs)

Statewide AVTs – Orientation and Mobility (AVTs-O&M) are experienced teachers of students who are blind or vision impaired, and have additional qualifications in O&M.

AVTs-O&M visit students in their educational setting to assess the student's functional O&M skills along with an assessment of the educational environment considering individual student access. They partner with the Advisory Visiting Teachers Blindness & Vision Impairment (AVT-BVI), school teams, families, and caregivers in implementing evidence-based strategies to support student engagement to safely, confidently and efficiently access, participate and achieve within their learning environments.

The Head of Department O&M works with Specialist Disability Support in Schools (SDSS) organisations to coordinate the referral of O&M services across the state.



Contact details

For further information, email 3140_OandM@eq.edu.au or telephone (07) 3823 0751.