

Top tips for communicating with someone who has a visual impairment

- 1. Speak first and introduce yourself.**
- 2. When meeting someone for the first time tell the person who you are, use your full name and explain your role.**
- 3. If you have met the person before they may recognise your voice but always identify yourself – “Hi Paul, it’s Jane”.**
- 4. Address the person by name if you can, so they know you are speaking to them (it may not always be obvious if there are other people around).**
- 5. Speak to the person directly, rather than speaking to someone else with them on their behalf.**
- 6. In a group setting always introduce the other people present.**
- 7. Use accurate and specific language when giving directions or instructions – “The table is on your left”.**
- 8. Verbalise your actions particularly during extended silences – “I’m searching for a file on my computer”.**
- 9. Indicate when you are moving away or leaving the conversation – “Nice talking to you Daniel, I’ll see you later”**
- 10. Offer to help but don’t just give support**