Eye Condition Snippet

**Condition Name:** Batten’s Disease

**Description:** A genetic disorder affecting the cells of the eyes and brain, the enzymes do not work correctly which leads to a build up of fat and protein. The number of cells in the eyes and brain gradually become smaller leading to progressive symptoms. Not every student develops all the symptoms but they include, decreased fine motor ability, clumsiness, changes in mood and personality, shorter attention span, spurred speech, poor memory, onset of epilepsy (between age 7 and 16) and deterioration in vision. Associated condition may include Keratoconus and cataracts.

**Effects on Vision:** Normally onset between ages 4 to 10, initially affecting the macula and developing to include the whole retina. Slowly progressing blurred vision usually leading to functional blindness within three years of diagnosis.

**Educational implications:** Emphasis on the expanded core curriculum, as blindness is associated Braille is an option, however additional challenges presented by progressive learning difficulties and seizures. Anti-Convulsant medication may lead to drowsiness. Prognosis will have effect on family and attitude to education.