Eye Condition Snippet

**Condition Name:** Glaucoma

**Description:** A congenital or secondary condition involving the pressure inside the eye being too high because drainage gap is blocked, causing progressive damage to the cornea (stretch marks) the optic disk and nerve. The cause is not known but hereditary factors may play a part. The pressure inside the eye may cause it to enlarge (buphthalmos) associated conditions include aniridia, rubella, Reiger’s anomaly, uveitis and retinopathy of prematurity.

**Effects on Vision:** Early detection and intervention can control the pressure and reduce the impact on vision. Blindness can occur in a few cases, the combination of eye structures affected with the addition of amblyopia caused by visual deprivation in the formative years contribute to the visual impairment. Peripheral vision often first affected as nerve fibres from the peripheral retina are most susceptible to raised pressure. Some students experience photophobia.

**Educational implications:** Adaptations to accommodate reduced visual acuity or field loss. Both factors would need to be considered, the student with reduced VA may need to sit close to the front of the class to see the board, low vision aids and or large print may be recommended. Field loss would require positioning to optimize best visual field. Reduced peripheral vision would have an impact on student’s mobility in the classroom. Where photophobia is a feature lighting needs to be considered. Frequent hospital appointments may interfere with schooling.